

**REPORT TO:** CABINET MEMBER -TECHNICAL SERVICES  
CABINET MEMBER -ENVIRONMENTAL  
CABINET MEMBER -REGENERATION

**DATE:** 16 DECEMBER 2009

**SUBJECT:** ENERGY CARBON AND WATER  
PROGRESS REPORT

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

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**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to update and advise members of the corporate, domestic energy efficiency, eco education, strategic progress and awareness activities undertaken in accordance with the Councils Corporate, Carbon Reduction, Fuel Poverty, Sustainable Schools and Home Energy Conservation Act commitments during 2008/09.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

No decision required - advice report.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- (i) That Cabinet Members note this report for information
- (ii) Members congratulate the various external cross sector partners in delivery of activities in this report.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:****FINANCIAL:** There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

	2009/10 £	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date?				
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:**

**Risk Assessment:** Failure to meet Carbon Reduction Commitment, HECA, Affordable Warmth, LAA Stretch Target, NI 185, NI186, NI 187, NI 188, CAA and Use of Resources, Corporate Plan Community Strategy, EU Directive, UK/EU Carbon Savings targets

**Asset Management:** There are no direct implications arising from this report.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

FINANCE – FD259 – The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>		<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community	✓		
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	✓		

4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	✓		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People	✓		

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This information report provides members with a overview of progress broken down into three principle areas of:

1. Domestic Energy and Fuel Poverty
2. Corporate Energy
3. Eco Education

The report covers the outcomes key achievements and progress within the 2008/09 financial year. Due to the extent/number of operational services and strategic interventions under the responsibility of the Energy Team, the report has presented information only for a cross section of work, in doing so gives a more concise summary of progress.

In parallel to this, we are awaiting the final outcomes of the Energy Review requested by Full Council in September 2008 and approved through Cabinet on 11 December 2008. This objective review is due to be fed back from the appointed consultants, and by reporting to members in February 2010 will provide a very detailed review and provide proposals on future strategic direction and operational delivery for the Council.

### **1.0 PART ONE - DOMESTIC ENERGY AND FUEL POVERTY**

- 1.0.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) required that local authorities draw up an action plan to reduce the amount of energy used in domestic buildings by 30% in the next 10 to 15 years (across all tenures). In accordance with this Act, the Council prepared its Home Energy Conservation Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy was for the Council to set out the energy conservation measures that it considered practicable, cost effective and likely to result in meeting the set target improvements in the energy efficiency for all sectors of residential accommodation throughout Sefton.
- 1.0.2 The historical performance of Sefton MBC for 2007/8 showed that Sefton should have achieved a 24% improvement in efficiency of its stock, in order to reach its 30% target by 2010. By that time Sefton MBC had achieved 21.09%.
- 1.0.3 The shortfall is down to the period before the establishment of the energy team in 2001. Since the establishment of the Energy Team the Council has consistently recorded a greater than requisite 2% improvement.

### **1.1 2008/09 HECA PROGRESS**

- 1.1.1 Due to a review of the HECA legislation started by DEFRA (Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs) in 2008, there has been a hiatus in the call for reports, as the Government considers a proposal for reshaping or repealing the Act. This has been further compounded by the establishment of the new Government Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) which the Act has been passed to create. Reviewing the Act for the new department has not been seen as a priority. Therefore this year we have not received a call for data gathering, however we have considered it prudent to undertake a minimal data collection exercise. This is to at least monitor our own progress and be prepared for any future monitoring required by the Secretary of State.

1.1.2 This year's data (for activities undertaken between April 2008 and March 2009) shows a 3.77% improvement on last year, which is a continuing increase in performance towards the Council's total HECA target. The Council has a cumulative progress of 24.07% towards its 30% target, although its programme suggests it should have reached 26%. Due to continuing improvement year on year we are confident that if investment levels are maintained, a 3% per annum improvement can be achieved over the next 2 years to reach the government target for 2010/11.

1.1.3 Furthermore, these figures should be considered pessimistic as not all data is included. This is because the level of collection and pressure applied to external agencies is reduced, as this would probably require legal actions since many have chosen not to supply data this year as they know that there is a hiatus in the report call.

## **1.2 PROGRAMME DELIVERY 2008/09**

1.2.1 To deliver the broad HECA programme a number of key projects are undertaken, below is a brief overview of each key project that has been undertaken. Some of the results have already been reported elsewhere but are included for completeness here.

### **1.3 SEARCH (SEFTON ENERGY ACTION REACHING COLD HOMES)**

1.3.1 Sefton Council with the support of NHS Sefton has been awarded mainstream funding to continue its SEARCH programme funded until 2011, worth approximately £162,000.

1.3.2 SEARCH is a home insulation grant referral scheme to fill the gaps of national grant provision. During 2008/09 SEARCH issued 207 grants to households for loft and cavity wall insulation in homes where a member of the household suffers from a cold related illness.

### **1.4 WARM FRONT GRANTS**

1.4.1 A national government grant scheme to tackle fuel poverty in England providing a package of heating and insulation measures up to £3,500 available to homeowners and private tenants in receipt of certain benefits/allowances.

1.4.2 During the 2008/09 financial year, 2,921 households received a Warm Front grant for heating and energy efficiency measures at a total cost of £3,582,129

### **1.5 HEALTH THROUGH WARMTH**

1.5.1 This scheme was recently extended until 2011 and 37 households received assistance through this crisis fund to provide heating measures, which are not available from national grants in their homes during 2008/09.

### **1.6 HELP (Home Energy Loans Project)**

1.6.1 This project offers interest free loans of up to £1,000 for homeowners to install energy efficiency measures in their homes (subject to acceptance).

### **1.7 SEFTON FUEL POVERTY OUTREACH SERVICE**

- 1.7.1 With funding from Supporting People, commenced in May 2008 with one Affordable Warmth Worker it provides acute demand for outreach and advocacy support. The scheme enables hard to reach residents to be supported in accessing grants and other support to reduce their risks of suffering from fuel poverty.
- 1.7.2 The main function of the role of Affordable Warmth Worker is to provide a home visiting service to assist people to apply for heating and insulation grants to make their homes warmer and healthier.
- 1.7.3 During home visits the Affordable Warmth Worker frequently identify additional housing and social needs and signpost them accordingly to a wide range of partners. This aspect of the role has worked extremely well helping to enhance the service provided and ultimately assisting the clients to remain living independently in their homes, with physical and fiscal support. After exceeding targets in YR1 by directly assisting 440 vulnerable residents the service was expanded to add a second Support Worker in April 2009 due to demand for service and increasing risks of fuel poverty that exist.

## **1.8 SOUTHPORT HOUSEWARMERS**

- 1.8.1 In 2007 DEFRA (the department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs) ran the Community Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) a £6.9 million programme across England to promote the take up of grant schemes for energy efficiency and fuel poverty improvements. As part of that programme Sefton was able to submit a joint bid with Wirral Council to run a scheme in some of the most vulnerable areas. Wirral led the bid and was the accountable body, securing £36,000 from DEFRA.
- 1.8.2 As part of the scheme nearly 3,000 homes in Sefton were targeted in the L21 area. The homes were part of a door-to-door campaign, which were enhanced with a community event. The campaign began with a mailout to each home, followed very soon after by a CEEF funded Community Advisor knocking on the door. If the householder was out, a postcard detailing the local event and giving a freephone number for energy efficiency advice was given. Some homes were re-visited if the residents were out on the first call. The event in Sefton, which joined in with a Community action group Fun Day, had over 60 householders visit the Community Advisors.
- 1.8.3 Given the financial climate and rising fuel costs the energy team at the Council were approached to see if ward area funding could be used to help residents reduce their energy bills. With the benefit of the Community Energy Efficiency Fund programme already undertaken it was proposed that a similar programme be administered in the Birkdale ward.
- 1.8.4 The scheme was extended to Kew, Cambridge, Norwood and a further area of Birkdale by the end of the programme. The total cost to the ward budgets was £3,221 and we estimated a total leverage of investment of circa £96,952 was achieved. We also distributed in excess of 700 low energy light bulbs to households in those areas. The premise was that local Councillors apply their knowledge to direct energy advisors to those streets with a higher proportion of vulnerable groups least able to afford the rising fuel costs.
- 1.8.5 This produced some very successful results, the table below shows the outputs from the schemes and relative investment in each area. Abbreviations used;
  - ◆ **Mailed**- Number of properties that had a letter sent to them and subsequently called at for a Face to face interview.

- ◆ **Face to face** – Interview with households to determine best form of assistance. Investment based on low energy lightbulbs given.
- ◆ **Survey** – Short series of questions to pinpoint areas of most interest
- ◆ **HECs**- Expanded and detailed survey on households energy issues leading to a tailored report and indicative Energy Performance certificate.
- ◆ **LI** – Households referred for loft insulation.
- ◆ **CWI** - Households referred for cavity wall insulation.
- ◆ **WBC** – Households referred for welfare benefits check.
- ◆ **CFS** - Households referred to community fire service for safety check and smoke alarm fitting.
- ◆ **WF**- Households referred to the Warm front scheme, a grant offering up to £2,700 worth of heating and insulation work for those on certain benefits.

	Birkdale	Kew	Event	Totals	Cambridge	Norwood	Event	Totals	Birkdale (additional)	Totals	Investment expected
<b>Mailed</b>	827	619	0	1,446	268	641	0	909	866	3,221	N/A
<b>Face to face</b>	110	61	46	217	155	189	11	355	201	773	£1,546
<b>Survey</b>	69	43	47	159	66	64	11	141	38	338	£5,746
<b>HECs</b>	8	3	2	13	0	1	2	3		16	£544
<b>LI</b>	19	17	14	50	14	36	6	56	13	119	£23,800
<b>CWI</b>	16	13	15	44	13	28	3	44	17	105	£31,500
<b>WBC</b>	8	7	1	16	2	5	0	7	0	23	£2,070
<b>CFS</b>	6	9	3	18	5	3	0	8	3	29	N/A
<b>WF</b>	7	11	12	30	2	5	0	7	0	37	£31,746.
											<b>£96,952</b>

## 1.9 SOLAR SEFTON INNOVATION PROGRAMME

- 1.9.1 As part of the Local Area Agreement Stretch target programme a pilot scheme to tackle properties that are hard to treat (ie properties that are older solid wall construction and have limited opportunities for energy improvement) was established. The technical solution employed was based on retrofitting solar water heating technology (the preheating of domestic hot water by daylight). Terraced properties were targeted in the Housing Market Renewal area and the project delivered solar water units at a target price of £3,000. It is estimated that these will provide 40-50% of the properties hot water needs and save them circa £80-£150 per annum in fuel costs.
- 1.9.2 The scheme offered residents the systems for £200 with additional funding from a variety of sources (where other technical barriers existed, such as combi boilers, additional costs were shared between the scheme and residents). We had 73 expressions of interest with 46 properties proceeding to an initial application. Each household was assessed for its technical (i.e. existing hot water system set-up) and carbon saving (i.e. number of occupants in property) suitability. This was completed issuing a short questionnaire. This gave us a list of properties for a full technical survey by priority scoring.

- 1.9.3 Results from the scheme highlighted that technical complications were less than expected but we had identified other issues (such as contractor capacity). We learnt a lot about a potential CESP or ERDF schemes see section 1.40.

## **1.10 EASIER BREATHING**

- 1.10.1 As part of the work on SEARCH a pilot programme was identified that improved indoor air quality and sought to improve the quality of life for children suffering from asthma. There is growing evidence that house dust mites can cause trigger asthma symptoms. It is not clear what proportion of asthma in Britain is partly or wholly attributable to dust mites. However even if the proportion is small (eg 5% extra cases), it could represent a substantial burden of disease, because asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases.
- 1.10.2 The aim of this project is to provide an improved indoor environment for the sufferers and families of asthmatic children living in Neighbourhood Renewal (NRF) areas by providing adaptations to the homes in order to reduce conditions that encourage house dust mite populations. The project funded the installation of measures that reduced humidity levels and raised internal temperatures to control and eradicate some asthma triggers such as house dust mite allergens.
- 1.10.3 Due to NHS governance and data protection issues, it was not possible (within the one-year timeframe of the project) for health professionals to refer eligible families direct to the project lead. In order to recruit suitable families, 3 local GP's agreed to search their patient records to identify potential families for assistance. A letter was sent to the target patients containing details of the pilot scheme requesting that if they wished to become involved to make contact with the project lead. This resulted in 13 families joining the pilot scheme with a total of 16 asthmatic children.
- 1.10.4 Each household received a package of energy efficiency and ventilation measures together with a specialist steam clean, new bedding and good practice advice.
- 1.10.5 From a medical/pharmaceutical perspective, the interventions demonstrated very positive self reported results:
- ◆ 40% reduction in blue inhaler use
  - ◆ 92% drop in unplanned attendance at A&E/Walk in centres
- Furthermore, from a sleep basis, improvements were also significant:
- ◆ 59% reduction in night time coughing
  - ◆ 53% reduction in sleep disturbance
  - ◆ 60% reduction in school absences
- 1.10.6 Following this successful pilot the NHS Sefton agreed to fund this through a Service Level Agreement for the next 3 years starting in 2008/09. Due to limited funds no new marketing was undertaken especially as a report from the pilot was published in order to spread the learning. From this word of mouth the schemes secured 7 families for the second year and is expected to over subscribe for 2009/10 (over 16 families).

## **1.11 ENERGY AND WARM HOMES ADVICE**



- 1.11.1 The Energy Team work in partnership with the Energy Savings Trust Advice Centre to provide a referral scheme with a local focus for our residents.
- 1.11.2 The free phone advice line is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and trained advisors provide free, impartial advice on a wide range of home heating and insulation grants, schemes and offers as well as general energy efficiency advice. Either face to face, over the phone or through tailored reports 9,761 households received advice through this service last financial year.

## **1.12 HOUSE WARMER REFERRAL NETWORK**

- 1.12.1 In order to strengthen and increase the referral network, the Affordable Warmth Co-ordinator has developed an ongoing programme of fuel poverty briefing sessions to front line staff across many partner organisations.
- 1.12.2 These sessions are delivered during existing team meetings to make best use of their available time. Background information on fuel poverty and issues faced in Sefton, together with a summary of the help available to make homes warmer are discussed and staff are fully briefed on how to refer those who need assistance using a range of referral methods including accessing the free phone advice line, email, fax or completing a House Warmer reply paid post card.

## **1.20 FUEL POVERTY**

- 1.20.1 Fuel poverty is defined as the inability to provide sufficient heat and light for a home without spending a disproportionate level of income in doing so. It is broadly accepted that a fuel poor household is one that needs to spend more than 10 per cent of household income to achieve satisfactory heating levels.
- 1.20.2 Lack of sufficient income combined with thermally inefficient properties means certain households cannot afford to heat their homes to an adequate, safe and comfortable healthy level i.e. 'Affordable Warmth'. Furthermore, the same lack of income also prevents those households from undertaking the necessary cost-effective improvements to the energy efficiency of their properties to alleviate the problem.
- 1.20.3 Fuel poverty is an urgent issue because cold homes can kill, harm people's health or damage quality of life. These effects can also impose wider costs on the community. Medical conditions and illnesses such as influenza, heart disease, and strokes are all exacerbated by the cold. Cold homes can also promote the growth of fungi and numbers of house dust mites. The former can damage the fabric of the building, whilst both fungi and dust mite allergens, can lead to respiratory diseases which reduce quality of life by enforced absences from work / school and restrict types of activities and employment.
- 1.20.4 Whilst all individuals may suffer from cold related illnesses older people, young children, householders who are disabled or householders suffering from long-term illnesses are particularly vulnerable. Social circumstances mean that these groups are more likely to spend longer periods of time in the home.

## **1.21 FUEL POVERTY IN SEFTON**

Whilst the definition of fuel poverty is very precise measuring it and assessing it is very subjective. Below is a sample of the various sources and we use to gauge the problem.

- 1.21.1 The Sefton private sector housing stock condition survey, conducted in 2007 found that the average household energy costs were £750 p.a. - this is before recent high profile rises in costs and ignores costs incurred by using prepayment meters common in low income households. Figures published nationally by the NEA (national fuel poverty campaigning organisation) highlight that average combined fuel bills now stand far higher at £1,288 by 2009.
- 1.21.2 The Sefton private sector housing stock condition survey found that 4,211 dwellings represented a category 1 Hazard under the Housing Health Safety Rating System for Excess Cold. A further 11,016 exhibit Excess Cold as a category 2 hazard. This is supported by the Non Decent Homes statistics on thermal efficiency where 7,753 dwellings failed. The survey estimated 10,909 households were considered to be in fuel poverty, representing 11.1% of private sector households. Whilst this is a significant improvement on 2002 survey results (at 19%) this does not take account of major price rises which have a significant impact on bills.
- 1.21.3 A macro analysis of Sefton Fuel Poverty statistics (March 2003 by CSE/Bristol University) found that 28% of households suffered from fuel poverty (31,893 households) compared to an England average of 23%. This report identified Merseyside as the worst County in England.
- 1.21.4 Department of Energy and Climate Change, which has responsibility for monitoring the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy has recently published some experimental figures to identify fuel poverty levels at Local Authority Level. The results for Sefton show it at 13.7% of households for 2006 (which is 97<sup>th</sup> worst the league table for England). This compares to Liverpool at 15.8%, Wirral at 15.3%, 13.2% for St Helens, 12.3% for West Lancashire and 11.7% for Knowsley.
- 1.21.5 The high scores reflect the combined influences of high levels of deprivation, older housing and inadequate heating systems that are common problems in parts of Sefton. The scale of the problem is represented by the stark statistics of excess winter mortality experienced here in Sefton at an average of 198 deaths p.a. (based on a 5 year average). We have shown significant improvement from 276 deaths pa in 1999/2000.

## 1.22 SEFTON AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY (SAWS)

- 1.22.1 Sefton's Affordable Warmth Strategy (SAWS) has been fully developed since publication in February 2007 and 1<sup>st</sup> Review in June 2008, led by Sefton's Energy Team. It involves key partners from across the health, statutory, community and voluntary sectors. It provides the framework for actions and joint working between agencies to address the problems of *Fuel Poverty* faced by Sefton residents.
- 1.22.2 The Council and partners recently agreed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Review to reflect upon what has been achieved and to refresh the strategy taking into account any changes in legislation and policies in order to ensure aims, activities and targets continue to be focused in the relevant areas. After approval at Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care, to be reported on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, the Sefton Affordable Warmth Strategy Review 2009 will be circulated widely to publicise the updated aims, activities and targets.
- 1.22.3 The strategy is co-ordinated and led by the Council but is a partnership of many mutual interests and at a recent count involved over 70 organisations. The strategy is informed by a key partner steering group which includes the following;

- ◆ Sefton Primary Care Trust- Steph Griffiths & Val Frampton
- ◆ Sefton CVS - Mike Mainwaring
- ◆ Housing Improvements Section - Steve Terry
- ◆ Age Concern - Dawn Stewart
- ◆ Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre - Margaret Lambert
- ◆ Sefton Local Pensions Service - Elaine Waddington
- ◆ Environmental Protection Department - Bob Hannah
- ◆ Anchor Staying Put - John Sandiford
- ◆ Linaker Childrens Centre - Jan Sanders
- ◆ Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service - Maureen Justice
- ◆ Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre (ESTAC) – John Vinson
- ◆ One Vision Housing Association - Geoff McKeating
- ◆ Health & Social Care - Sharon Lees

### **1.30 NATIONAL INDICATORS AND OTHER STATUTORY PRESSURES**

1.30.1 Local Area Agreement (LAA): The March 2007 Local Area Agreement for Sefton adopted 11 Headline Priorities, with one these target measures being to “Reduce fuel poverty and associated suffering”. As a core stretch target there is a £800,000 reward element associated with achieving the target within the time period (this is dependent on the other targets being achieved for a sum total of £8 million reward).

1.30.2 The indicator is measured by the number of properties below SAP 35. SAP is the Standard Assessment Procedure which measures energy efficiency of homes, using a scale of 0-100, anything below 35 is considered extremely poor, new builds achieve over 80. Sefton’s target was to reduce this to only 10,233 properties by March 2010 (lifting 600 properties above this poor performance level).

1.30.3 Our results to March 2009 show we have achieved this already and even exceeded it as we can report that there only remains 9,217 properties of SAP 35 or below and we are working to reduce this number even further.

1.30.4 In addition National Indicator 187 measures a fuel poverty proxy, which Sefton will be required to report upon annually. It uses the two standards of SAP 35 or below (considered fuel poor) and SAP 65 (considered safe from fuel poverty concerns). However it only measures the housing of those on means tested benefits. The results for last year are:

- ◆ 7.07% households on means tested benefit with a SAP rating below 35
- ◆ Actual Value 33.77% households on means tested benefit with a SAP rating of 65 or above
- ◆ Based on 679 households on income related benefits for which SAP assessment has been carried out

### **1.40 FORWARD PLAN 2010 AND BEYOND**

Through the Home Energy Saving Strategy the Government is consulting on long term plans to change the key drivers for domestic energy saving and the types of action needed to achieve a 60% saving on CO2 emissions for UK Plc activities (statutory and an aspiration for an 80% cut). It is estimated that the housing market will at least have to deliver its 60% if not more of the savings *pro rata*. The actions detailed below are the anticipated models of activity planned for the future.

### **1.41 COMMUNITY ENERGY SAVING PROGRAMME (CESP)**

- 1.41.1 In September 2008 the Government announced a package of initiatives designed to help people to reduce their fuel bills, whilst also ensuring that the most vulnerable receive help. One element of this package is the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). It aims to deliver around £350m of carbon saving packages in homes by 2012. This also helps tackle climate change, and CESP will contribute to the UK ambition of an 80% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050.
- 1.41.2 CESP places an obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators to meet a CO2 reduction target by providing energy efficiency measures to domestic consumers. These measures must be delivered to households in areas with high indices of multiple deprivation in Lowest Super Output Areas (LSOA).
- 1.41.3 The Government published a list of 4,000 Lower Super Output areas that are eligible nationally, of which 30 are in Sefton. Due to the potential value of funding at stake (up to £3.5M per project) and short timescales involved, the Energy Team have made already made open contacts with utility company's to importantly present Sefton's readiness to participate with some outline ideas and profile statistics on our LSOA's. With assistance from Housing Market Renewal these have been filtered down to the most likely candidate areas.
- 1.41.4 It appears that as programmes evolve utilities will be seeking match funding from local authorities and housing associations probably up to 20-30% of the total costs.

#### **1.42 MERSEYSIDE RENEWABLES & ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN COMMUNITY HOUSING (REECH)**

- 1.42.1 In September 2009 the NorthWest Development Agency (NWDA) issued a call for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) to be allocated to Housing works for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy improvements. The NWDA requested bidders to form sub regional expressions of interest.
- 1.42.2 The Liverpool City Region (Merseyside including Halton) submitted an expression of interest for a programme of works totalling £22.8 million, entitled "Merseyside REECH". ERDF were offering up to 50% of the funding with the balance likely to be made up from CESP/utility funding, Housing Associations and Local Authority funds. The expression was led by Sefton and included a programme of 5,000 property improvements.
- 1.42.3 The consortia of partners included all Local authorities, many Registered Social Landlords, Universities and voluntary sector partners. Sefton have since been invited to submit a concept form to work up the proposal by January 2010.

#### **1.43 LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE**

The Council is supporting a bid from Formby Parish Council to access a funding call by DECC to fund community actions up to £500,000 for significant programmes of CO2 emission reduction. This is a competitive call for up to 12 projects to gain funding in England and Wales.

#### **1.44 FORWARD PLANNING and FINANCIAL PRESSURES**

- 1.44.1 To date the energy team has achieved these outcomes with no core delivery budgets and limited access to any opportunity funds internally (no annual allocation in the

Housing Capital Programme). Therefore use of external funding has been paramount to the delivery of programmes and stock improvement.

- 1.44.2 Furthermore the domestic housing part of the energy team has two housing orientated staff funded by the Council, a service level agreement with a local charity (costing £14K) and two externally funded staff by the Supporting People Programme on a fixed term contract (contract ends March 2011).
- 1.44.3 Many of the current funding streams that have allowed much of the activity are due to end this or next financial year (March 2011). So the securing of the above schemes is crucial to maintain the level of service to residents and the council. The energy team will be negotiating with key partners such as NHS Sefton, Supporting People and utilities over the next year to secure future funding

## **2.0 PART TWO - CORPORATE ENERGY PROGRESS**

### **BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 Since 2004 the Energy Team have been responsible for the management of all Corporate energy matters in terms of Strategy, utility procurement, Carbon (energy) reduction and water conservation.
- 2.02 During the period since the new part of the team was put in place the Council has been extremely successful in reducing energy consumption, effective savings and overall carbon reduction across the Council.
- 2.03 As projected throughout this period new Statutory Obligations have been introduced and/or are now imminent which justify the Councils approach in delivering challenges such as the new National performance framework NI's, Carbon Reduction Commitment and increased carbon targets.
- 2.04 This section of the report briefly summarises the key headline operational and strategic progress during 2008/09 through the Corporate Energy agenda.

### **2.1 SEFTON CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- 2.1.1 Many organisations recognise the essential role of resource efficiency in addressing the multiple challenges of climate change that we now face. Sefton Council therefore, wanted to set an example in this respect, leading to the development of new policies, culture and technologies that can assist the Council and its stakeholders to address many challenges by reducing our own carbon emissions.
- 2.1.2 In 2006 Sefton became one of only 25% of UK Local Authorities and the first on Merseyside to develop a contemporary and relevant approach to Carbon Management.
- 2.1.3 As a Council Sefton wanted to:
- ❑ Bind together **all** the existing Council approaches and strategies which were working towards emissions reduction and integrate into the Councils performance systems.
  - ❑ Demonstrate current baseline of carbon emissions as a result of Council operations and identify key areas for savings.
  - ❑ To achieve a significant level of ownership and employee involvement in the ultimate implementation of Seftons Carbon Management Plan.
  - ❑ Secure internal funding streams or protocol to aid investment towards achieving savings.
- 2.1.4 Scope of our Carbon Management Plan (CMP): Many other LA's chose to scope their plans to only include energy. But from the beginning, Sefton had the desire to widen its scope considerably and to bring **all** its operational carbon arisings into the plan over 2 phases:
- Phase 1 (Initial Year 1 scope for CMP)
- ❑ Council owned and operated buildings (non-domestic) inc. schools.
  - ❑ Street lighting
  - ❑ Green Transport/Travel
  - ❑ Waste management

- Procurement standards

Phase 2 (after embedding period to be pursued from Year 2 onwards)

- Information Technology (equipment management)
- Fleet management
- Planning

2.1.5 Since the launch of our Carbon Management Plan we have realised added strategic and operational advantage including:

- Attraction of external funding e.g. SALIX loan fund
- Meeting external bid criteria.
- Formal Council policy - carrot and stick (enforcement).
- Assimilation into Council performance measurement.
- Early preparation for forthcoming legislative intervention i.e. Carbon Reduction Commitment and EU Buildings Directive (Display Energy Certificates)
- New National Performance Indicator NI 185 CO<sub>2</sub> LA Operations - the assessment tool is based upon Carbon Mgt Plan methodology.
- New Carbon Reduction Commitment preparedness.

2.1.6 Sefton's headline Carbon Management Plan targets are:

- To reduce our carbon emissions from Council owned and operated buildings by 2,100 tonnes in the period 2006 to 2010.
- To reduce carbon emissions through greener transport use by 12 tonnes
- To reduce our carbon emissions by increased recycling by 33,214 tonnes

Equating to a total 12% reduction in total Carbon Emissions by 2010.

2.1.7 Whilst Sefton's Carbon Management Plan represents a quantifiable strategy to reduce carbon emissions, it means a great deal more by way of outward stewardship to all our stakeholders.

2.1.8 Residents are encouraged to see the positive steps taken by their own Council to be inspired to change their own behaviour and physical environment. We back our residents up at every single step with the advice they need to make a change.

2.1.9 It seems too that Sefton's reputation as a carbon management authority has a wider reach than we expected. At the request of the British Council in October 2007 a delegation of senior government and local government officials visited Sefton to learn much more about how we are tackling our impacts on climate change by an innovative range of methods, with Carbon Management at the hub.

2.1.10 Their visit has had a real bearing on how they develop new approach in the Ukraine and our relationship as mentor has continued with Sefton acting as the EU best practice exemplar to the British Council and Embassy Projects.

2.1.11 The most recent 2007/08 quantitative update has proved that we have already reached the target our achievements for the first 2 years by delivering a progress carbon reduction of 13.26%.

2.1.12 The real intention for Sefton is to raise the bar on itself and seek to set best practice in adoption of practices and technologies to drive down its carbon emissions ever lower aided by increasingly accurate data measurement especially in overcoming data backup issues with Utilities.

2.1.13 The Council have begun a comprehensive strategic review to take our delivery to the next level. This will include: all elements of Seftons environmental policy and operational responsibilities. The findings of this review will be presented by February 2010.

## **2.2 ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION DATA MANAGEMENT**

2.2.1 The key to progressive energy management is based on possession of good data to enable accurate monitoring and targeting of potential savings

2.2.2 Oil, gas and electricity data is received and entered monthly. The supply of data to appropriate personnel also acts as an enormous step towards energy awareness and should be the catalyst to other good housekeeping actions therefore, it proves to be the one of the most effective methods in achieving energy saving. It is generally quoted by The Carbon Trust that good housekeeping can save as much as 10%.

2.2.3 The principle option to enable a comprehensive and constant data supply from our current suppliers is via E-Billing. The Energy Team is currently working closely with the Finance Department and the Council's utility suppliers to assess the feasibility of e-billing for the Councils electricity and gas accounts.

2.2.4 We have been successfully running e-billing for United Utilities Water bills for all Council Civic buildings since 2008 and this has proved to be successful and supported budget monitoring.

2.2.5 A move to wider e-billing would not only enable systematic auditing of invoices to ensure reliable financial control and planning but also free up time for other proactive energy savings work including individual site surveys and advice.

2.2.6 There is also an industry accepted relationship between higher quality of data and tendered prices. To this end, e-billing allows the incumbent or potential supplier to accept the data for our whole asset portfolio 'as is' because reduced data errors in turn reduces their risk in tendering. E-billing also helps ensure firmer adherence to 28 day payment terms, again giving less cash flow risk to suppliers.

2.2.7 In order to further support the role of e-billing, the energy team are beginning to roll-out a reporting portal. This function allows sites to enter their meter readings through a website portal which automatically checks for anomalies and then uploads the readings onto the energy team database.

2.2.8 This new source of data and the ability to check the information provided against programmable benchmarks, strengthens the data used for remits such as the CRC, DEC's and NI's.

## **2.3 UTILITY BILL MONITORING AND RECONCILIATION**

2.3.1 Invoice validation had proved very cost effective uncovering errors ranging from incorrect tariffs to incorrect charging of Climate Change Levy. These savings amount to circa £900K to date with several sites still at detailed query stage.

2.3.2 Efforts in resolving queries, frequently several years old, have proved very positive. Working closely with the relevant accounts departments, site managers and visiting sites to obtain accurate meter readings - has made it possible to reconcile invoices.



- 2.3.3 Sefton's Energy Team is addressing the issue of estimated site invoices. In order to further support the role of e-billing, the energy team are beginning to roll-out a reporting portal. This function allows sites to enter their meter readings through a website portal which automatically checks for anomalies and then uploads the readings onto the energy team database.
- 2.3.4 This will ensure sites are paying for what they use, facilitate accurate financial forecasting and enable correct energy monitoring and targeting for each site.
- 2.3.5 The work undertaken to build a reliable energy management database (Systemlink) over the last 12 months has added value to the reporting function in relation to energy consumption and savings targets. Systemlink has the facility to produce various reports, from single site data through league tables and importantly requisite National Indicator and CAA reports including Use of Resource assessment.
- 2.3.6 Work is also being undertaken to review the current banding of Sefton's sites under the new Surface Water charging model introduced by United Utilities. Working with the consultancy firm, Hanover partnerships, the energy team have been able to interrogate and correct boundaries proposed by United Utilities, resulting in refunds for those sites effected. A full report detailing refunded monies to Sefton will be scheduled for Cabinet Member review in the new year.

## 2.4 UTILITY PROCUREMENT

- 2.4.1 A report was submitted to Cabinet on 11 June 2009 detailing the results of the contract price renewal exercise for the supply of gas and electricity to multiple properties and Street Lighting within the boundaries of Sefton Council for the period 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2011.
- 2.4.2 The officers of the Energy Team tracked the trading markets daily during the period up to May 2009 seeking the optimum period to purchase utilising the in-house designed E-Procurement protocol. During this period the general trend of the energy markets was generally, except for small peak fluctuations.
- 2.4.3 The global economic downturn and its subsequent effect on anticipated energy requirements has been a major contributing factor to the continued reduction in energy prices.
- 2.4.4 Due to prudent timing of this procurement round the Council was afforded advantage of lower prices. A summary of the prices/tariff rate offer and percentage decreases are detailed below:

**Gas** (Scottish and Southern): - 32.37% (average price decrease against 08/09 contract)

**Electricity** (ScottishPower): - 28.92% (average price decrease against 08/09 contract)

**Note:** This reduction is spread over financial years as the contract runs from 1 September to 31 August each year. These figures refer to the energy contracts only and do not relate to financial budgets, forecasts or actual payments. It should also be noted that each directorate will have a proportionately different percentage increase due to make up of buildings portfolio.

- 2.4.5 There will be changes in energy management and procurement with the advent of carbon trading which will require new skill sets for Councils. The new arrangements will run to the expiry of the current supply contracts and during this time the Council will evaluate the impact of new statutory requirements and Government recommendations in procurement of energy through consortia e.g. OGC. Further reports on this will be presented to Members in due course.
- 2.4.6 Going forward there are many factors that are likely to facilitate prices increase in the energy markets such as an up turn in the world economy, tightening on Carbon Trading, issues in nuclear production and weather uncertainty. However, there are very few influences to create a reduction in prices that have not already been factored in. Although energy prices are extremely unpredictable it is felt by many specialists that energy prices have hit the bottom of the trend.

## **2.5 DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES**

- 2.5.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008, occupiers of buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup> with public access will need to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). A DEC is an energy efficiency rating from the building on a scale of 'A to G' and must be renewed annually.
- 2.5.2 This obligation was introduced by law and is enforced by Trading Standards Officers in accordance with the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) guidelines.
- 2.5.3 The legislation also enforces the requirement to have an accompanying advisory report that informs the occupiers of opportunities to improve on their rating. This report, known as an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), will be required if a building is for sale, rent or is a new construction. This EPC is currently being used by DCSF in a research project at Freshfield Primary school in an attempt to improve the building's energy consumption.
- 2.5.4 All qualifying sites were issued with their first DEC and advisory report last year and are currently being issued with their report for the next 12 months.
- 2.5.5 The main aim of this EU programme is to reduce the amount of carbon emissions produced by our non-domestic buildings. It is hoped that the scheme will also encourage people to consider the efficiency of equipment and materials when embarking on a new construction or refurbishment of an existing property.
- 2.5.6 A review of the performance of Sefton's portfolio will be carried out once all sites have been issued with their new certificate.

## **2.6 WATER SAVINGS PILOT PROGRAMME**

- 2.6.1 Sefton's Energy Team have embarked upon a pilot research project with United Utilities in an attempt to prove water savings in schools. The project is being delivered by Aqualogic and funding will come from United Utilities.

- 2.6.2 We have identified 22 sites within Sefton and the aim of the project is to significantly reduce water consumption within a 24 month period within a budget of approximately £ 2 per pupil.
- 2.6.3 The figures so far show a potential average reduction of 40% with most sites presenting a payback of less than 8 months. The monitoring period will begin on installation and continue for a period of 2 months. After this monitoring period is completed a report will be produced identifying the performance of the technologies selected and their suitability for other sites.

## **2.7 SALIX**

- 2.7.1 In April 2007 Salix Finance Ltd provide a grant of £50K to pump prime an energy efficiency programme affecting all components of Sefton Council's buildings, initially in Civic/Admin buildings. The Council matched this grant to make up the total 'invest to save' ring-fenced fund of £100K.
- 2.7.2 Monies to implement energy saving projects have been provided by this new fund through interest free internal 'loans'. Loans are repaid by using a minimum of 75% of annual savings gained by the building/portfolio. Once the project loan has been repaid into the fund, the project recipient will of course continue to benefit from the energy savings in years to come. As these repayments have been recycled back into the fund they have become available for re-investment, in a self-sustaining energy efficiency investment fund.
- 2.7.3 From energy audits carried out on the major buildings occupied and or owned by the we have identified and implemented a number of energy saving projects examples listed below:
- Bootle Town Hall - roof insulation
  - Crown Buildings - boiler
  - Good Shepherd - cavity wall insulation
  - Bootle Town Hall - roof insulation voltage optimisation
  - Pendle - cavity wall
  - Various Sites - water heater controls
- 2.7.4 Since the first tranche of investment in 2007, the schemes have already established £441K of lifetime energy and 2,800 tonnes of carbon savings to the Council.
- 2.7.5 Due to the strength and success in delivery of SALIX in Civic Buildings we hope to expand the scope of the fund to match fund and potentiate other areas such as Street Lighting and Signals to achieve net savings.

## **2.8 CARBON AND WATER SAVINGS STAFF CAMPAIGN**

- 2.8.1 The Energy Team plans to launch its revised Waste Busters energy and water saving campaign in 2010. The Carbon Trust estimates that organisations can save up to 10% by implementing an awareness campaign and this equates to a saving of more than £ 800,000 for Sefton Council each year, if effectively applied.

- 2.8.2 Support from top down is pivotal and should be visible to all staff in the organisation in order to ensure it successfully embeds into the organisational culture. The Energy Team plans to obtain this top-level support before the campaign is rolled out and will consider providing training materials for the in-house management training scheme and new-starter induction.

## **2.9 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS**

- 2.9.1 The Energy Team is supporting Children Schools and Families (CSF) in delivering the Sustainable Schools framework to Sefton's schools. The framework is a Government initiative aimed at embedding sustainable development in school practices and will be subject to OFSTED reporting in the future.
- 2.9.2 Through helping CSF identify ways in which to address energy and water saving on a curriculum, campus and community level, we are ensuring that our schools are exemplars to others. Schools such as Marshside and Ainsdale St Johns have been cited by the CSF and Community groups as examples of best practice and continue to inspire other schools in this area.
- 2.9.3 Our work on this framework has now developed to support Governors, Councillors and Parent Groups in encouraging sustainable behaviour and decisions at school and in the community. This work reflects in the schools budgets also as reducing energy means financial savings.

## **2.10 LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- 2.10.1 The Energy Team have been working closely with Sefton's Leisure centres for several years and have helped them achieve high scores on the Energy and Environmental sections of the QUEST assessments. In the past few months, this support work has been given new direction and an improvement plan has been developed.
- 2.10.2 The Energy Team are in the process of completing energy surveys at all of the leisure centre sites and will produce a report detailing all improvements that can be made and targets to aim for in the future such as renewable energy options.
- 2.10.3 The Energy Team has produced a bespoke energy policy for each site detailing reduction targets and pledging monitoring of consumption.
- 2.10.4 A full bill audit is in the process of being carried out to ensure the utility companies are charging at the correct rate and the readings are accurate.
- 2.10.5 A full training pack was issued to all centres for their induction procedures and staff development. When the new Waste Busters campaign is completed, this will replace the training pack to ensure that the message is renewed and kept interesting.
- 2.10.6 All leisure centre sites will be able to submit their meter readings electronically now through the training given by the Energy Team on how to use the portal.

## **2.11 EU EXEMPLAR: SEFTON - UKRAINE**

- 2.11.1 In October 2007 Sefton originally welcomed an official delegation from Ukraine, whom as part of a British Council programme, were visiting the UK to see how national and local government are addressing the challenges of climate change through energy efficiency and renewables. This was a very positive visit for the Ukrainian delegation and they especially enjoyed their time in Sefton, welcomed by the Mayor, visiting examples of excellent practice including the Eco Visitor Centre, the new Splashworld and St Jeromes School.
- 2.11.2 On the strength of this, Sefton's Energy Team were invited to represent the UK and EU perspective as exemplars and participate in a regional seminar under the project "Regional Campaign on Energy efficiency", a two year public diplomacy project, implemented by the British Embassy and the British Council in Ukraine.
- 2.11.3 The aim of the project was to raise awareness among local authorities and local communities in Ukraine of the benefits of low-carbon, energy-efficient utilities, and to assist them to access EU and British schemes and expertise.
- 2.11.4 This was done through two visits arranged by the British Council, the first was in February 2008. Where a member of the Energy Team attended the first regional seminar in Kharkiv, Ukraine. This brought together Ukrainian city authorities, scientists and media to address issues of communal energy efficiency and urban environment.
- 2.11.5 The programme then progressed to a large conference on 15 and 16 May 2008, hosted in Sudak on the southern Crimean coast. Where we returned to present a paper relating Sefton's experiences in energy, carbon and renewables in light of current and forthcoming EU legislation. This generated a great deal of interest and discussion including for example, strong interest in our Southport Eco Visitor Centre that would be something the regional Crimean Government wish to replicate.
- 2.11.6 Finally in March 2009, the British Embassy and BBC World Service visited Sefton on a follow up media tour, bringing both Ukrainian National TV Channels to produce a documentary on UK/EU best practice, demonstrated by Sefton in energy and renewables.
- 2.11.7 Whilst the EU Exemplar project has now ended, the exchange of ideas has left strong friendships and continued dialogue especially with Kharkiv City Council in the North of Ukraine and new contacts in Sudak and Crimea in the South. Overall, this experience has put Sefton Council as a beacon of good practice at an International level.

## **2.2 FORWARD PLAN 2010 AND BEYOND**

- 2.2.1 There are developing pressures facing the Council which will require even greater response to be made, with the common driver of mitigating climate change through reducing carbon emissions and water consumption.
- 2.2.2 Clearly the impacts and plans in response to the risks and opportunities of these challenges will be brought before members in due course. However, the developing issues include:
- CRC Carbon Reduction Commitment
  - Increasing pressures on water charges
  - More stretching Carbon Savings Targets developing

- Measurement of progress via NI 185 and NI 188
- Stability of energy supply markets and future increases.
- Council ability to invest to save and achieve available carbon/revenue savings
- Expansion of DEC requirements

### **3.0 PART THREE - ECO EDUCATION SERVICES**

- 3.01 The award winning Southport Eco Visitor Centre provides fun, hands on, environmental education visits for school groups. The classroom at the Centre was been fitted with a range of impressive equipment and has been open for visitors for over 4 years. In this time over 11,000 children and accompanying teachers, have been educated and inspired to do their bit, no matter how small, for the environment.
- 3.02 Whilst the in house educational sessions are the core service of the centre, this expertise on the rapidly growing agenda of environmental education and awareness across all ages and groups has afforded the Team opportunities to develop far broader interventions and types of education work across Sefton. The key highlights in 2008/09 are appraised below:

#### **3.1 MENU DEVELOPMENT**

- 3.1.1 The educational visit programmes were developed from scratch to meet the needs of teachers in school, particularly to fit closely with the National Curriculum in Key Stages 2 and 3. Visits are packed with innovative, interactive activities and really have the 'wow factor'.
- 3.1.2 Because of this they are memorable with the visiting children, ensuring the environmental lessons learned stay with them for a long time after their actual day with us. The educational officers ensure, therefore, that all visiting children go away aware of simple things they and their family can do for the environment here in Sefton and how it helps the greater challenges of climate change.
- 3.1.3 There are now a core of 13 menu educational days for schools to choose and enjoy covering a very wide range of environmental topics including:
- Energy Saving, Renewable Energy
  - Climate Change
  - Water Conservation
  - Environmental Issues in the News
  - School Travel Plans, Transport Issues
  - Coastal Management
  - Eco-Schools
  - School Council Seminar
- 3.1.4 All days are National Curriculum and Qualifications and Curriculum Authority linked, allowing teachers to use them to effectively complement work being done in their schools. The days link effectively with a range of subjects including Citizenship, Geography, Science and Information Technology. This is an added advantage with preparedness and up front compliance with the new UK National Curriculum links to Climate Change introduced in 2009.
- 3.1.5 Feedback is always excellent from teachers, children and accompanying adults and return visit rates are high. Some comments made by teachers include:

“Absolutely fantastic – children were engaged, focussed and active learners! Very impressed with differentiation – all abilities able to be involved”

“The visit to the Eco Centre was exactly what we wanted to help the school council understand how and why we should aim to reduce energy waste and recycle more. We came away with lots of ideas for projects we can work on to make our school more ‘environmentally friendly’. A really worthwhile trip!”

- 3.1.6 Upon return to school it is commonly fed back that children (and teachers) have been full of enthusiasm as a result of their day at the Centre, which has led to positive knock-on effects in school and the wider community.
- 3.1.7 These important initiatives are already planned for expansion in number and variety with a wider selection of educational programmes on offer to schools. The diary is already busy with both regular visitors and new schools for the current academic year, some choosing favourite days which they know fit in perfectly with their curriculum back at school, others keen to try the new days we have on offer.
- 3.1.8 Menus are currently being re-developed to take into account that many schools are currently embracing the new ‘Creative Curriculum’ for 2010. There is also potential to add new themed days, particularly based on the positive evaluations from visiting schools when we have been asked to focus on something not currently noted in the existing menus (Weather & natural disasters, renewable energy pro’s and con’s debate etc). We are currently approaching a variety of schools to get a better understanding of which avenues schools are going down with regard to creative curriculum.

### **3.2 IMCORE (INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT FOR EUROPE’S CHANGING COASTAL RESOURCE)**

- 3.2.1 IMCORE is funded under the Interreg IVB programme, the €6m IMCORE project will be led by the Coastal & Marine Resources Centre in University College Cork until its end in 2011. Sefton are one of the key Partners in this.
- 3.2.2 There is an urgent need to increase our capacity to respond to the Ecological, Social and Economic impacts of climate on the viability of coastal sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture, ports and shipping, marine recreation, and the defence of coastal communities from flooding and erosion.
- 3.2.3 To date, most attention has been focused on predicting the types and rates of change likely to occur but what is needed now is a method to identify the adaptation measures that need to be applied to coastal use and management.
- 3.2.4 Through IMCORE, Sefton wish to develop an adaptation strategy for the coast and to achieve this we need to be able to have an informed debate with stakeholders. This means that we need to understand the implications of coastal change (including climate change) upon the future evolution of the coast and need to be able to communicate the key issues and processes to stakeholders (including young people) before developing the adaptation plan.
- 3.2.5 The Energy Team's role is to develop understanding and learning of social, environmental and economic aspects of the coast. We are responsible for input into the implementation of on-site interpretation both in the form of guided walks and on-site displays, presentations to local interest groups, Councillor briefings and delivery



of educational materials in partnership with other key local partners. Educational materials would also be presented to local teacher training colleges to encourage use.

3.2.6 Good progress is being made, working closely with the coastal defence team to produce an interactive resource to help local children grasp the concepts of protecting Sefton's coast facing climate change, through both adaptation and mitigation. Study tools are being developed for primary and secondary students, backed up with cross curriculum linked lesson plans/curriculum links to a variety of key stages in the following areas:

- Coastal processes
- Climate Change
- Sea level rise and increased storminess
- Warmer, wetter, winters and hotter, drier summers
- Mitigation
- Adaptation

3.2.7 We have already held a successful IMCORE themed day at the centre, where 5 schools from different wards in Sefton were invited to work together. The resources are targeted for delivery in all Sefton schools in Spring 2010. An adult education resource and the promotion of a new (IMCORE subsidised) Eco Centre IMCORE day will follow

### **3.3 SCHOOL VISITS TO CENTRE**

3.3.1 Excellent progress in developing links with new schools whom have now previously utilised the service of the centre, many from out of the Sefton area and creating repeat bookings/income.

3.3.2 During the period April 08-July 09, due to maternity leave the centre only had 1/2 an officer in place to run classes. However, still achieved a solid level of service:

April 2008 – Dec 2008:	1,175 pupils
Jan 2009 – Nov 2009:	1,443 pupils

3.3.3 A high number of bookings have already been taken for 2010. Many schools have also identified the centre for potential alternative curriculum activities, particularly amongst disaffected pupils.

### **3.4 REVISION OF EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS**

3.4.1 New designs have been drawn up, with more focus on interactive features, in an attempt to not only expand engagement with visiting pupils, but also the visitors to the centre using the park and ride facility to engage and communicate the developing issues around climate change.

3.4.2 The Energy Team are currently working with a number of partners (Costal Management, STPU, Cycle England) to address needs and to identify secure methods of funding the update work.

### **3.5 SEFTON YOUNG ECO CHAMPION**

- 3.5.1 Inspired by the many amazing young people who have visited for educational visits, the Eco Centre first set out in 2008 to reward Sefton pupils who were setting an example to others with their environmental ideas, actions and enthusiasm. We particularly sought one Sefton 'champion' who exemplified an ongoing commitment to caring for their local environment.
- 3.5.2 Sefton's Young Eco Champion had to be someone who cared about the environment and takes action to improve theirs. They must be an inspiration to others by demonstrating how we all can 'do our bit' to make a difference.
- 3.5.3 Candidates could be exceptional members of a school eco club or might have set an example to others in the 'green' way they live their lives - basically, they needed to 'go the extra mile' for the environment, setting a good example for others and thinking of innovative ways of playing their part in caring for the planet.
- 3.5.4 When in post, the winner receives support in writing a termly 'diary' of eco tips which are included on Sefton Council's website for their year as Sefton's Young Eco Champion.
- 3.5.5 Following on from the success of last years appointment whom won national awards for his efforts, the 2009 competition was opened up to all schools in the borough whom were invited to nominate pupils who demonstrated a commitment to the environment and an understanding of how their work supports broader green issues.
- 3.5.6 Winners were chosen in 8 categories to tie in with the sustainable schools framework including team of the year, energy and water, and travel and traffic - with John Shaw scooping the overall prize of Sefton Young Eco Champ.
- 3.5.7 The new Champion, John Shaw of Crosby High has been following in his predecessors footsteps and actively promoted his work via a number of channels (presentations, website blog, local press) and is actively engaged with the centre. Furthermore, Energy Team staff are currently engaged with all those shortlisted for the award to create avenues for good eco promotion.
- 3.5.8 A Champions Reunion Event for all the category winners is planned for January 2010, where all councillors from the schools wards will be invited to participate and learn more about what the children are doing.

### **3.6 USE OF CYCLE TOWN/CYCLE PARK FOR VISITING SCHOOLS**

- 3.6.1 Visitors to education sessions are now being encouraged to use the new cycle storage provision at the centre. We are currently working with the Cycling Touring Club and Greenbank High School, where the pupils will all travel to the school via cycle and take part in a transport alternatives/school travel plan workshop.

### **3.7 OUT-REACH TO SCHOOLS AND OTHERS**

- 3.7.1 Outreach work in a number of schools, in support of sustainable schools and even some requests from out of the borough, creating potential future bookings and allowing better networking to increase the educational profile of the centre. In some cases this includes setting up and supporting Eco Teams within Sefton schools.

### **3.8 NON SCHOOL/COMMUNITIES WORK**

- 3.8.1 In recent months we have built on non-school/community use of the centre, including Youth Clubs and Young Carers. We have also been actively involved with Merseyfire (a charitable extension of the fire brigade) and the Bright Sparks campaign working with volunteers aged 16-25 who are neither employed nor involved in education and training to develop an innovative session based on energy awareness. The first session was a great success, and has led to future bookings in early 2010.
- 3.8.2 We are also currently in liaison with Energy Projects Plus, to deliver a variety of education sessions to community groups, with an initial 'stall' set up on the public concourse in an attempt to consult and understand what areas people are interested in and where current gaps in knowledge/delivery exist. We also plan to hold a session with chairs of governors to enable better understanding of their role in the sustainable schools framework.

### **3.9 FORWARD PLAN 2010 AND BEYOND**

- 3.9.1 The new Sustainable School framework and Creative Curriculum creates a great deal of opportunity to build on the existing menu and look at developing it further. However, there are a number of issues to be overcome at this stage:

- Outdated classroom equipment, in urgent need of refresh and is impeding development/quality of services
- Need to identify a key figure in CSF to enable the Councils approach to the sustainable school framework within schools at a curriculum level
- Eco centre currently has separate website, which attracts new schools and could be used to more potential, to be supported by ICT.

#### **3.9.2 Potential Plan/Ideas**

- Production of termly Eco Magazine, working with schools/youth groups
- Podcasting via website to communicate all issues for schools and communities on climate change.
- Better links with local business to promote centre and to enable them to address their own carbon footprint
- Events to invite pupils who have visited prior to come in with parents so they can take the role of 'educators'
- Expanded use of the Eco Classroom outside core school hours.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- (i) That Cabinet Members note this report for information
- (ii) Members congratulate the various external cross sector partners in delivery of activities in this report.