



meeting	<b>DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING (COMMUNITIES)</b>		
date	<b>Tuesday, 14 October 2008</b>	agenda item number	<b>5</b>
from:	<b>Acting Corporate Director Communities</b>		

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of Nottinghamshire County Council's work on sustainable energy matters.
2. A presentation at the Communities Departmental Briefing on the 14<sup>th</sup> October will explore some of the challenges around energy supply and usage, and the potential impacts for the Authority.

### Background

3. The need to promote energy saving behaviours within Nottinghamshire County Council's workforce derives not only from the need to use 'energy' efficiently, but also from the need to demonstrate community leadership by matching internal behaviours to external policy and strategy. The Comprehensive Area Assessment framework document, currently out for consultation, includes a key line of enquiry on how well organisations manage natural resources to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money. It focuses on the ability to understand and quantify use of natural resources; identification of influencing factors; management of resources to reduce impact on the environment; and, management of environmental risks.
4. There is also a growing expectation and requirement for all local authorities to act on climate change, including reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Indicators in the new performance framework include NI 185 measuring carbon dioxide emissions from our own operations, and NI 186, per capita carbon dioxide emissions.
5. Rising costs of energy, and the growing body of evidence suggesting that oil supplies will peak in the near future, have also highlighted the need to ensure efficient use of energy and business resilience. The annual cost for street lighting and signals electricity alone has risen by £2 million this year.
6. The County Council has a number of successful initiatives in place which have attracted external funding through, for example, the Bio-Energy Capital Grant and the Local Authority Energy Finance scheme,

to enable investment in energy saving measures and sustainable bio-energy installations. The cluster of woodheat installations in schools and other County Council buildings is now the largest in the country, reducing both energy bills and carbon dioxide emissions.

7. Oil not only supplies 36% of primary energy needs, but also 95% of transport energy. Increasing costs coupled with a potential decrease in supply will present challenges for future service delivery across the County Council.

## **RECOMMENDED**

Members are asked to note this report.

Steve Calvert  
Acting Corporate Director Communities