

### Carbon Reduction Commitment

In July 2010 the Council was required to register for the new Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Scheme. The mandatory scheme requires the submission of energy data and a corresponding annual payment for carbon emissions generated. The first report was submitted in July 2011. In response, a risk was identified and mitigated in the main through a small group of officers reporting indirectly to the then Corporate Sustainability Group. Their roles meant that they had some knowledge of the Council's operations which enabled them to contribute to the capture of energy (gas and electricity) data. Since reporting obligations came into force the Council has successfully complied with the Scheme and has not been penalised for late or inaccurate information.

The Government has made significant changes to Phase 2 of the CRC scheme designed to simplify the scheme and to reduce the administrative burden for participants, whilst maintaining its effectiveness in delivering energy and carbon savings. The main changes with financial implications for the Council come into effect in 2014-15, and are as follows

- The cost per tonne increases from £12 to £16, and then in line with RPI each year
- Emissions from schools and academies will be excluded
- Emissions from street lighting, signs and signals will be included

It is anticipated that the above will still be met from the existing budget of £600k.

The amended requirements of the CRC Scheme points to a greater coordination of activities designed to reduce the Council's energy consumption and carbon emissions. At a time of wider change to the property portfolio where the Council is reconsidering which properties might be disposed of and which might be used differently, it is appropriate that activities are brought together into a new corporate Energy and Carbon Reduction Strategy. In addition, as part of the review of the Corporate Landlord function a post of Energy Manager will be created to review and reduce energy consumption throughout the Council with a target of achieving £250k savings for the General Fund by 2015/16.