

LGA Group Environmental Policy

Summary

1. In response to discussion at the September Board meeting, this paper sets out the LGA Group's current domestic environmental policy. Leadership for this is provided by the Group Strategic Management Team, reporting through the governance bodies of the Group organisations. Derek Allen, Executive Director of LACORS, acts as Champion in the SMT. Derek is unable to attend the Board meeting but Helen Platts, Strategic Business Advisor, IDeA, will attend on behalf of the Group SMT.

Recommendation

Members are asked:

To note the contents of the report and use it to inform discussion.

Actions

Members to comment, as the Board responsible for the Group's externally facing work on the environment, on the policy and the progress which has been achieved

The Environment Board Chairman to write to the Group Chief Executive summarising the key issues. This letter will also be copied in to Cllr Keith Mitchell, Chairman of the Resources Panel.

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23 4

LGA Group Environmental Policy and Performance

1. The Group Environmental Policy was signed off by Local Government Partnership Board in June 09 and contained a number of targets for reducing the LGA Group environmental impact. Namely:
 - Reduce carbon emissions by 6 per cent by the end of 2010/11 and 16 per cent by 2014/15
 - Continually reduce waste and increase our recycling rate to exceed 50 per cent by the end of 2010/11
 - Reduce paper use (office and publications) by 10 per cent by the end of 2010/11 and 20 per cent by 2014/15
 - Produce a green procurement policy
 - Champion and mainstream consideration of environmental sustainability throughout our outward facing work programmes and services with councils and other stakeholders
2. A number of actions have taken place or are planned against these targets which are as follows:
3. Reduce carbon emissions by 6 per cent by the end of 2010/11 and 16 per cent by 2014/15
 - a. The Contract Management Board manages the relationship with Liberata and has recently agreed the following investments that will affect Group CO2 emissions to be implemented by Liberata in 2010/11:
 - Layden House and Local Government House energy monitoring and targeting to include installation of smart meters and regular review of energy usage. This also includes the establishment of a specific energy policy and strategy (CO2 reduction up to 70 tonnes pa; cost £8K)
 - Optimisation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (CO2 reduction up to 58 tonnes pa; cost £12k)
 - Update the Local Government House building management system and controls and monitoring relating to heating and cooling of the building (CO2 reduction up to 53 tonnes pa cost £14k)

These changes when taken together with behaviour change work with staff carried out by the Green Team (a voluntary staff-led group interested in helping to reduce the environmental impact of the LGA

23 4

Group) has the potential to reduce LGA Group CO2 emissions by up to 11 per cent by the end of 2010/11.

- b. Continually reduce waste and increase our recycling rate to exceed 50 per cent by the end of 2010/11. Liberata have now installed new recycling facilities and removed desk side bins in Layden House with these measures to be implemented in Local Government House in January. Along with behaviour change work carried out by both Liberata and the Green Team there is now the potential to exceed the 50 per cent target by the end of 2010/11.
 - c. Reduce paper use (office and publications) by 10 per cent by the end of 2010/11 and 20 per cent by 2014/15. Monitoring of paper use is now being carried out by Liberata and the Green Team will promote staff behaviour change in relation to paper use in January.
 - d. Produce a green procurement policy. This will now be picked up within the LGA Group overall procurement policy which is currently in development.
 - e. Champion and mainstream consideration of environmental sustainability throughout our outward facing work programmes and services with councils and other stakeholders. The LGA Group continues to specifically prioritise the Environment theme in its outward facing work with councils and has a detailed work plan to support councils on carbon reduction, environmental protection, waste and knowledge, networks and communication.
4. In addition to this the Group and Green Team have carried out work to increase wider staff awareness of environmental sustainability. This has seen lunchtime awareness sessions for staff at both Layden and Local Government House this autumn. An awareness campaign has also been run by the Green Team with monthly themed weeks providing guidance via the portal on energy efficiency, waste and recycling and travel.
 5. Further work against this commitment to develop a light touch yet effective approach cross-Group to mainstream these considerations within wider work areas remains a task for further consideration.

Financial Implications

6. The implementation of the policy is being taken forward through the resources set aside for the Group's internal management.

23 4

Implications for Wales

7. This report deals solely with the Group's premises in London. The management of WLGA's business is the responsibility of its management team and governance structures.

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