



Strategic Planning & Environment

Overview & Scrutiny

Agenda

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021 AT 6.30 PM

Microsoft Teams - Microsoft Teams

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Barrett
Councillor Beauchamp
Councillor Birnie (Chairman)
Councillor P Hearn
Councillor Hobson
Councillor McDowell
Councillor Ransley

Councillor Riddick
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Silwal (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Stevens
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Timmis

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support or 01442 228209

AGENDA

9. CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE REPORT (Pages 2 - 3)

Agenda Item 9



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23 March 2021
Part:	2

ISO 14001 Accreditation Addendum

In order to help manage its Environmental Management System (EMS), Dacorum Borough Council decided to work to gain ISO 14001 accreditation, which it first achieved in 2013.

ISO 14001 accreditation specifies the requirements for an EMS that an organization can use to enhance its environmental performance. ISO 14001 is intended for use by an organization seeking to manage its environmental responsibilities in a systematic manner that contributes to the environmental pillar of sustainability.

Due to the level of internal and external auditing required to meet this standard, maintaining ISO 14001 accreditation is highly time-consuming. It is predicted that this takes up nearly 60 officer days annually. Historically the Environmental Sustainability Officer was responsible for managing the ISO 14001 accreditation, however this officer left Dacorum in 2018 and was not replaced.

ISO14001 Annual Cost.						
	Officers	Hours	Unit cost (per hour)	Total	Saving	Comments
Paperwork and Core EMS Documents.	AD	70	£50	£3,500	Non cashable	
Internal Audits	Various	91	£30	£2,730	Non cashable	Two officers conducting 13 audits a year. Half day audit, half day write up.
External Audit Preparation	AD/Site managers	91	£35	£3,185	Non cashable	
External Audits	Various	98	£40	£3,920	Non cashable	7 audit days a year. EMS lead and site manager attend, so 2 officers at all times.
EMS Mgt meeting/Scrutiny session	EMS officer and others	56	£40	£2,240	Non cashable	OSC yearly, Mgt session annually, Meetings every 2 months
		Days	Unit cost (Per day)			
External Audit Fees		7	£1,020	£7,140	Not budgeted for	
				£22,715		

In 2019, Members supported the declaration of a Climate Emergency - as part of this declaration, Dacorum pledged to become net-zero as an organisation by 2030, as well as support the borough to lower its overall emissions. The Climate and Sustainability Programme Lead Officer was hired in 2020 in order to help work on this ambitious declaration.

In order to guide the delivery of the declaration and pledges, a comprehensive Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan was created which spans through a variety of departments and lists a wide range of actions. This document will be monitored and updated regularly as work progresses. The action plan effectively replaces and greatly supersedes the objectives of the ISO 14001 – which is a small set of around six objectives. The action plan will aim to go further and faster, and would be regularly monitored and updated throughout the year, rather than being reviewed once a year.

Due to the shifting emphasis to carbon emissions, there needs to be an increased focus on measurement of emissions and improving energy efficiency in order to ensure the progressive reduction of emissions. This will need to be monitored and reported on. This is not accounted for under ISO 14001, which renders this accreditation out of date and as such means that it delivers relatively little.

Due to ISO 14001 being so time-consuming and labour-intensive, this drain on officer resources prohibits more meaningful action taking place. Although these are not cashable savings, the savings to officer time, would result in more time that could be allocated to sustainability work. Due to the urgent work of the Climate Emergency, and the need for officer time to be used wisely, it is proposed that we ask Cabinet to consider dropping ISO 14001 accreditation, effective immediately. To confirm, Dacorum's EMS would still be in place, as this is independent of ISO 14001 accreditation.

ISO 14001 is a generic standard that can fit any business or organisation - it is not tailored for local government and very few local authorities in the UK have ISO accreditation. No other Hertfordshire local authorities work to this standard.

APSE have been consulted on this and their advice was as follows:

"It is up to each individual council to manage their own environmental targets in whichever way is more appropriate for them, ISO 14001 accreditation can act as a useful tool and reporting mechanism, however isn't a requirement. We do generally make the point that while data gathering and reporting is important, it shouldn't be overdone at the expense of further action, therefore if you feel that a less thorough way would provide a similar benefit but would free up more time then that might be the most appropriate course of action."