

Committee(s): Residents' Consultation Committee Barbican Residential Committee	Date(s): 6 June 2011 20 June 2011	Item no.
Subject: Setting up a Sustainability Working Group for the Barbican Estate		Public
Report of: Barbican Association General Council		For Decision
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Barbican Residential Committee approval and support is sought for a request from the Barbican Association General Council on behalf of Barbican residents for the establishment of a Sustainability Working Group (SWG). The SWG would evaluate proposals to make the Barbican Estate more sustainable, with particular regard to reducing carbon emissions, but also water usage and household waste, air and light pollution, and improving levels of recycling and biodiversity.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members agree the need for a Barbican Residential Sustainability Working Group • That Members approve the Sustainability Working Group's terms of reference • That the Barbican Residential Committee nominate a member to Chair the Sustainability Working Group 		

Main Report

Background

1. Both the Climate Change Act 2008 and the London Plan 2009 require local authorities to actively support and work towards the national goals of reducing carbon emissions in our homes and communities. These goals call for a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 29% by 2012 (on 1990 levels) and for an overall reduction in London's CO₂ emissions of 60% of 1990 levels by 2025.
2. The current government's Green Deal places responsibility on local authorities acting as both landlords and Estate managers to facilitate tenants

and leaseholders to reduce their carbon emissions and to explore partnerships with energy providers and energy conservation organisations to help achieve these objectives. The Energy Act 2011 is expected to further endorse these goals.

3. Sustainability is at the core of the City's community strategy. The City Corporation also has a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy, geared towards both reducing the City Corporation's own carbon footprint and supporting City stakeholders in reducing theirs.

Current Position

4. Residential CO₂ emissions, contracted for by the Corporation, amount to about 25% of the Corporation's total emissions - and the Barbican Estate represents a substantial proportion of these emissions.
5. Power consumption contracted for by the Barbican Estate Office on residents' behalf for underfloor heating is approximately 21 million KWh per annum, with electricity consumption for common parts lighting, lifts etc. in addition to this.
6. The average annual energy consumption for Barbican underfloor heating is 143 KWh/m². This compares with new build apartments of 55 KWh/m².
7. The City Corporation has significant expertise in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies - specifically targeted at energy reduction.
8. The City has made substantial progress in technological appraisal, design and finance of energy reduction initiatives on the Middlesex Street estate.
9. The Barbican Association has had an active sustainability sub-committee for the last two years, which has initiated a valuable working relationship with University College London (UCL). UCL has undertaken detailed research into the thermal efficiency of the Estate and this work is on-going with the objective of providing recommendations on how the Estate might reduce its carbon emissions.
10. House groups have actively been seeking help from the Barbican Association sustainability committee to advise individual residents on ways to reduce their carbon footprint and to live more sustainably. The City has also supported Ecoteams on the Barbican Estate to facilitate individual residents to reduce energy consumption and increase waste reduction and recycling.

11. There is thus a growing awareness amongst residents about sustainability issues and equally a growing support for improvements.

Proposals

12. Residents are seeking a more active engagement with the City as landlord and Estate Manager to tackle some of the issues that will need to be fully investigated and resolved if the Estate is to be able to make a meaningful contribution towards meeting national and regional targets as outlined above. These issues may ultimately involve development of green finance solutions as well as potential technical solutions. They are issues that residents consider can best be resolved through co-operation and with the support of the City, and could best be discussed in a Sustainability Working Group.

Financial and Risk Implications

13. The City Corporation will be able to take full advantage of the expertise and research that UCL (and potentially others) will carry out for free.
14. The City Corporation can benefit from the goodwill of residents who are prepared to contribute their time and expertise.
15. The City is likely to generate positive publicity from working with stakeholders to resolve these issues.
16. It is possible that targets such as Carbon Reduction (CRTs) may eventually apply to currently exempt emissions, including those of landlords who contract for energy on behalf of residents. It may be advantageous to investigate now ways in which such energy consumption can be reduced or restructured.

Consultees

17. The Chamberlain, Comptroller & City Solicitor, City Surveyor and Town Clerk have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

18. The Barbican Association General Council requests that a Sustainability Working Group be set up, which reports to the Residents' Consultation Committee and the Barbican Residential Committee and adheres to the terms of reference set out in the Appendix 1. The Sustainability Working Group aims to support the City Corporation in finding solutions to sustainability-related issues concerning the Barbican Estate.

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