

Council launches sustainability strategy

25 March 2008

Council chiefs have made a commitment to tackle climate change and a range of environmental issues with the launch of its sustainability strategy.

Trafford's first sustainability strategy is the result of over two years work following extensive consultations with local people.

Trafford council says that the three year plan focuses on issues such as climate change and fuel poverty.

Over half million tonnes of carbon dioxide is produced from homes in Trafford every year - that's about a quarter of the total emissions in the borough.

The strategy will promote energy efficiency in existing homes in Trafford's 90,000 homes.

Reducing the council's own energy use and working with schools, leisure centres and housing associations to minimise their own impact on climate change feature in the plan.

The fundamental approach is to help businesses and residents to save money on their fuel bills and help save the planet at the same time. A council tax rebate of £70 is being given to people who install energy efficiency measures such as loft or cavity wall insulation under the council's scheme (with a financial payback for residents of around two years and saving at least £100 per household). The council is working with Action for Sustainable Living to roll out this programme in eleven wards.

The council is working to cut carbon emissions by 25 per cent by 2020 through these measures across the borough.

This includes actions to make the most of wood resources and supporting businesses to prepare themselves for a low carbon environment.

It will also ensure that future planning permission is only given to developments that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.