

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Background

Barking and Dagenham Council is located in the heart of the Thames Gateway and delivers a full range of services to over 165,000 residents.

The Council is currently engaged in a significant transformation programme driven by the Council's partners' agenda for growth, change and improvement.

Included within this agenda is a number of environmental improvements.

Sustainable purchasing

The Council is keen to ensure that sustainably procured products and services are specified for the transformation programme. To help achieve this, the Council has made a clear commitment to engaging its staff and ensuring that they are educated, trained and committed to sustainable procurement.

Personal management plans are developed with new employees during their induction. These plans include the departmental / team service plans and objectives.

Any member of staff involved in procurement has to attend

an introductory procurement course, which includes a module on sustainability.

An independently developed Sustainable Procurement training course has also been introduced and key procurement officers from all departments have been trained.

This course is available to all staff via the Council intranet, and covers five learning modules, followed by a self check test.

When procuring, the Council includes community benefit clauses in its tendering and contractual documentation.

Implementation

The Council has focused on injecting pace into the transformation programme. This has resulted in rapid implementation in a number of areas:

- Development of the Green Office Guide (3 months)
- Recruitment of Green Champions (2 months)
- Training of Green Champions (1 month)
- Pilot and analysis of Green Champions (8 months).

The principles of environmental good practice have been part of the Council's corporate policy for several years. Consequently, the Council has been able to secure senior level commitment to these initiatives. This commitment is supported by focused and committed Green Champions.

Policy

The Council is committed to a programme of environmental sustainability that will affect the procurement function in each part of the organisation. This dictates that every reasonable effort must be made to procure sustainably.

The Council has developed the Green Office Guide, which is a reference tool for employees on how to improve environmental practices in the workplace. One of the five key areas is "Procure responsibly".

Communicating with stakeholders

The Council has a team of over 50 Green Champions located across all areas of its operation. These champions ensure that consistent messages are relayed both to and from

employees. The Green Champions have also led initiatives and campaigns that encourage all staff to reduce energy use.

The Green Office Guide is made available on the Council intranet. This is accessible to all employees as well as all local businesses.

Business benefits

Barking and Dagenham Council recently identified savings of 58,577 kWh of electricity and 30 tonnes of CO2 as a result of a three week campaign led by the Green Champions. This identified improvements in behaviour such as not leaving equipment on overnight. The Green Champions generate over £70,000 worth of savings per annum.

Results

The Council has been recognised for its efforts and achievements with the following awards:

- Beacon Award – Tackling Climate Change 2008-09
- Most Improved Council – LGC 2008
- Carbon Trust Management Programme 2006.

Looking to the future

The Council will continue to expand its successful Green Champions scheme and Green Office Guide. It will also look to roll these out to other public sector staff within the borough (Police and PCT) and offer it to local SMEs.

Expansion of the Procurement Overview training is underway and will include new BS ISO 15686-5:2008 Buildings and constructed assets, service life

planning and life cycle costing.

More Sustainable Procurement courses are planned for this year.

Barking and Dagenham is looking to lead the way in this area. It is co-ordinating an interactive Sustainable Procurement workshop targeted at senior members of Departmental Management teams and procurement.

Contact

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