

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.45pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
17 SEPTEMBER 2007

Present: Councillor Ingall (In the Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Dhamrait, Rawson, Richards, Winter
and Wood.
Jane Temple – co opted member
Peter Robinson – co opted member

14/07 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Grimadell

15/07 Late Items

The Chair introduced the following late item:

27/07 Perth Street Adoption Building

16/07 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

17/07 Minute of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/07 Call-in

There were no items

19/07 Performance eye

Members of the Commission were provided with a list of Performance Eye indicators.

Resolved to note the Performance Eye indicators

20/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

Members were asked to identify any items for retrospective scrutiny. It was reported that a basic measure of the Council's carbon emissions was at 26,200 tonnes, which excluded commuting and waste. The Commission was asked to note that this figure did not include carbon from indirect emissions. It was noted that the Council needed to reduce this figure by 25%.

Resolved to contact the Overview and Scrutiny Team with any items for retrospective scrutiny for future meetings

21/07 Report on Local Energy Saving Initiatives

Jeremy Fisk from C Changes presented to the Commission on his recent local energy saving initiative. He and 13 of his neighbours Mr Fisk measured his baseline energy use over two weeks, then discussed ways of reducing that figure. Most of the energy saving ideas they identified were the same as those identified by the Council and by energy saving trusts (e.g. turning down the thermostat or using the iron less)

It was reported that many of the participants were disappointed after implementing the changes with the reduction in the level of gas usage, but it was noted that the experiment took place in November, which was a high gas usage month.

It was also noted that some of the households did not change their habits with gas usage, while those that did saw as much as a 15% saving. It was reported that participants found it easier to reduce electricity usage than gas, and four houses saved in excess of 15%. Mr Fisk reported that he had continued the experiment after the agreed period and had made a 42% saving in electricity and a 40% saving in gas, which he equated to a 2 tonnes saving in carbon.

Mr Fisk commented that for the Council to achieve their 25% reduction target, everyone must commit to the changes – but that this was an achievable target. It was suggested that Mr Fisk's experiment could be rolled out Derby wide.

Members suggested that it would be important to get families involved in the project, and one way to do this would be to introduce a project in schools that children could take home to their families relating to energy efficiency. To make the project more appealing to householders it would also be important to show the potential monetary savings from reducing energy use as there would then be an incentive to participate.

Resolved:

- **To submit a report to Council Cabinet on the proposals for a school project for energy efficiency and the possibility of implementing this in schools**
- **To liaise with Derby Evening Telegraph to produce an article to promote and encourage families in Derby to take up aspects of Jeremy Fisk's experiment to reduce energy use.**

22/07 Briefing on Council's Waste Strategy

The Commission received a briefing from Colin Stewart, Contract Development Officer, setting out the Council's Waste Strategy. The strategy had only recently been adopted as a joint initiative between the City and County Councils in response to the new Government strategy for Waste Disposal, and was intended to ensure that Derby would meet its targets.

It was reported that there was little that the Council could do to encourage the public to minimise waste, but there were actions that the Council could take when dealing with the waste. Councillor Ingall commented that once again it seemed that public education was vital in ensuring that people were aware of the implications of their waste. Mr Stewart commented that many households had been offered compost bins instead of brown bins, but there had been little uptake on the offer.

It was reported that Derby was a long way along the road to meeting the targets laid out in the guidelines of the Government strategy, and some areas were already recycling and composting at a rate of 50% so a 55% rate was achievable. It was believed that a 60% rate was the long term realistic maximum as there would always be some residual waste. A new recycling plant was being built in Walsall.

The Council was currently procuring a new 25 year contract for waste treatment, effective from April 2010. However, a potential problem for the future would be the budget allocated for waste disposal, which was currently £3.6m expected to rise to only £5.1m in 2009/10. Treatment of waste was more expensive than landfill, but the prices for landfill were increasing as an incentive to find other means of disposing of waste. Costs could be reduced by diverting more waste into recycling and composting.

There was still a problem of dealing with the waste caused by plastic carrier bags. At the moment, Derby City Council could not process plastics other than plastic bottles. The new plant would be able to recycle other plastics, but at the moment it was not known if this would include plastic bags, although it was hoped that it would.

The Commission discussed various re-use and recycling projects already present in the city, including the re-use of textiles and furniture through charitable organisations such as the Derby Furniture Project. It was reported that glass and can recycling points at supermarkets would be taking

tetrapacks from the New Year, and that Derby City Council was looking for a sustainable solution to tetrapack recycling.

The Commission recognised there was a problem of awareness of composting issues. The Environment Commission had made a visit to the composting plant at Ashbourne recently, and it was suggested that this Commission might also benefit from a visit to the plant.

Resolved to:

- **note the briefing on waste strategy**
- **visit the composting plant at Ashbourne**

23/07 Proposal to include Carbon Emissions implications in Council reports

Jane Temple, co-opted member proposed that any report presented to Council should include their Carbon Emission implications as part of the report. It was also suggested that any planning applications should have carbon implications included as standard.

It was reported that new Building Regulations required that the plans included a building's carbon emissions over its lifetime. It was suggested that although it was a good idea to include the wider implications for carbon emissions, it was impractical to include these on every council report at the current time.

It was suggested that as a starting point any planning applications to erect a new building should include the carbon implications of the building and suggested ways of reducing these emissions. It was agreed that the onus should be on the developer to do this.

Resolved

- **To submit a report to the Planning Control Committee outlining the proposal to include carbon implications on planning reports.**
- **To submit a report to Council Cabinet proposing the inclusion of carbon implications on reports concerning non-planning decisions.**

24/07 Update Report arrangements to monitor the Council's use of Energy

Neil Norwood, the Council's Energy Group Leader, provided the Commission with an update on the monitoring of the council's energy use.

Neil said that all e Council buildings were now on a central database and an organisation called TEAM was using an e-billing system to receive all energy invoices and calculate the Council's efficiency and emissions. The utility

companies would now send all the Council Invoices to TEAM rather than to the Council. No invoices would be paid after 2 estimated bills had been received when the energy companies would need to come and take readings.

Currently, the energy team were providing historic data on gas bills to TEAM to try and identify poor performers in energy efficiency within the council. The first reports from direct bills would be available December 2007-January 2008, and would identify directly which departments were not performing well in energy efficiency. The reports also allow breakdown by site, so the council would be able to identify energy inefficient buildings. The e-billing also provided a financial check on bills to pick up any overcharging quickly.

The staff energy champions were active, and one had reported that she had already saved £200. The energy champions called reported the building on Perth Street, which had led to major energy efficiency campaign at that site. There were currently over 25 energy champions, who were working alongside the Green Team.

The Council was also looking at new software for PCs to reduce energy consumption.

Resolved to note the update

25/07 Woking Borough Council and their Climate Change
 Agenda 'Planet Woking'

The Commission received a report from the Corporate Director – Corporate and Adult Services advising that Woking Borough Council's Climate Change Officer and the Chief Executive had been invited to the next meeting of the commission (12/11/07) The report asked members to inform the Co-ordination team of areas of particular interest in advance, so they could ensure that Woking's presentation met the Council's needs. These agreed at the meeting were:

- A general overview of the Woking scheme
- Combined Power/Heat Units
- Planning
- Education of Staff
- Successes and Failures

Woking were considered to be a good example to follow as they had a lot of experience in the field. It was suggested that many other Councils would be interested in the meeting with Woking, and should be invited to the meeting.

Resolved to invite neighbouring Local Authorities and other interested Stakeholders to the Commission meeting on 12 November 2007 with Woking Borough Council, and to consider deferring other agenda items to a date to be decided.

26/07 Climate Change Commission Work Plan

The Commission considered a report about involving the public in reducing carbon emissions.

A scoping report would be produced for a future meeting to suggest the feasibility of delivering a large scale Climate Change Conference for Derby residents aimed at reducing carbon emissions across the city.

A draft leaflet had been produced to show what the residents could do in the short term to reduce their carbon emissions. Although it was agreed that there was a need to educate the general public, there was some debate as to whether a house to house leaflet was the most effective means of delivery. It was debated whether other media (radio, Derby Evening Telegraph) might be more effective at reaching people.

Resolved to

- **Not progress the educational leaflet at this time and;**
- **To request a scoping report to a future meeting for a large scale climate change conference in Derby**

27/07 Perth Street Adoption Building

The Commission was advised by the Chair that an energy champion, Julie Buckler had asked what could be done about the Perth Street building. Neil Norwood and the Chair had visited the site and it was believed that the building could become a showpiece of good energy saving practice.

After surveying the site proposals to improve the lighting and add lighting controls were made. A data logger had been attached to the meter to record actual energy consumption and this would be left on for a week.

The energy consumption of the new lighting scheme would be estimated and savings in both energy and emission would be calculated.

The new lighting would be installed and the data logger used again to establish actual consumption and confirm the savings.

Resolved to note and welcome the energy saving measures being introduced at Perth Street

28/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan.

The Commission considered the latest version of the Forward Plan.

Resolved to request a report on 28/07 – A Derby City Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

29/07 Response of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the
Commission

There were no items

30/07 Matters referred to the Commission from the Council
Cabinet

There were no items

MINUTES END