



COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR PERSONNEL, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – 14 NOVEMBER 2006

Report of the Scrutiny Management Commission

Recommendations arising from the Planning and Environment Commission's Review of Energy Use by the Council

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Council Cabinet member for Personnel, Performance Management and Economic Development encourages Council Cabinet to adopt the recommendations of the former Planning and Environment Commission.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 5 September 2005 the former Planning and Environment Commission resolved to undertake a review of the Council's use of energy.
- 2.2 The objectives of the review were to:
 1. Obtain information on likely future UK energy costs and any supply constraints and use this to assess the current impact and short/medium term implications of the Council's current energy policies and energy procurement arrangements
 2. Examine the implications for the Council of any forthcoming legislation on energy/fuel use
 3. Consider and where appropriate make recommendations on the actions that the City Council might take in order to:
 - a) Reduce its energy consumption and energy costs
 - b) Minimise the effect of energy price increases or energy shortages on Council services and the City
 - c) Increase its resilience to possible energy shortages
 - d) Utilise alternative energy sources
- 2.3 The recommendations of the former Planning and Environment Commission are listed in Appendix 2 of this report. A copy of the Commission's report can be obtained from the Co-ordination Team.

- 2.4 As energy conservation now falls within the portfolio of the Scrutiny Management Commission the report and the recommendations were considered and approved by that Commission.
- 2.5 At their meeting on 24 October 2006 Scrutiny Management Commission members also agreed to a proposal to organise a conference to raise the awareness of Council employees of the need to conserve energy and reduce energy use. It is intended that the conference will take place in February 2007.

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Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 – Recommendations of the review

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report. The cost of the conference can be contained within the Commissions' research budget.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Reducing the Council's energy use will be of benefit to all Derby people

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives,
 - Deliver excellent services, performance and value for money

Recommendation 1

That the Council identifies all premises in Derby where back-up power sources would be needed in the event a prolonged power outage and puts in place arrangements to provide those power sources if required.

Reasons 1

Ian Shuttleworth, the Chief Emergency Planning Officer, told the Commission that one of the Council's vulnerabilities was its lack of back-up power sources. Tim Findlay, the Principal Services Engineer, confirmed that the Council would not be able to cope in the event of a failure or reduction in the level of the gas or electricity supply to Derby.

Recommendation 2

That the Council should as a matter of urgency identify the likely impact of increasing fuel costs on the level of fuel poverty in Derby.

Reasons 2

To ascertain the likely scale of any problem and assist with the planning of any response by the Council.

Recommendation 3

That the appropriate officers of the Council should:

1. Prepare a report for SMC detailing the actions that the Council will need to take to conform with forthcoming energy conservation legislation
2. Identify the timescales, likely cost, and practicability of complying with the legislation, and the implications for the Council if it did not comply.
3. Provide the Scrutiny Management Commission with regular update reports on the progress made towards compliance with the legislation.

Reasons 3

To fully quantify and publicise the implications of the forthcoming energy conservation legislation for the Council and to track progress towards compliance.

Recommendation 4

That Council Cabinet adopts the recommendations contained in the Audit and Risk Management Section's report on the Payment of Utility Bills.

Reasons 4

A clear understanding of where and how energy is being used, and the cost implications of that use, is essential if the Council is to use the energy that it purchases in the most cost effective way.

Recommendation 5

That specific action is taken to ensure that all Council Directorates are fully engaged in the Carbon Management Programme that is being developed with the Carbon Trust and that the Scrutiny Management Commission is provided with regular update reports on the progress of the Directorates and the programme.

Reasons 5

To ensure that all the opportunities offered by the Carbon Management Programme are fully exploited by the Council.

Recommendation 6

That the Council embarks on a high profile programme to engage all Council employees in the Carbon Management Programme and to emphasise to them the need to conserve energy and minimise energy use.

Reasons 6

1. To ensure that Council employees are aware of the Carbon Management Programme and to encourage them to engage in it.
2. To minimise the Council's use of energy

Recommendation 7

That the Council:

1. Reviews its planning and building control policies in order to actively encourage the use of renewable sources of energy that do not generate carbon emissions.
2. Actively encourages developers in the City to:
 - a) Design new buildings and dwellings to minimise energy consumption and where possible to make use of renewable sources of energy, such as solar water heating, that do not generate carbon emissions.
 - b) Carry out the conversion of existing buildings in a manner that makes the best practicable use of renewable sources of energy, such as solar water heating, that do not generate carbon emissions.
 - c) Wherever possible design sites and building layouts with south facing roofs to maximise the opportunity for using solar energy.

Reasons 7

To minimise the energy demand of new and newly converted buildings and dwellings in the City.

Recommendation 8

That the Council investigates all possible methods of locally generating energy, preferably by methods that do not use fossil fuel or generate carbon emissions, and seeks to implement any which appear practicable.

Reasons 8

To identify any methods of energy generation that could be used to reduce the City's dependence on bought-in energy.