

ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.54pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair)
Councillors Ingall, Grimadell, Keane, Tuplin and Shanker
Jeremy Fisk – Co-opted Member
Bob Hewins – Co-opted Member

17/08 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Hird and Peter Robinson

18/08 Late Items

There were no late items

19/08 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Keane declared a personal interest in Item 24/08 as he was a Derby Homes lease holder

20/08 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21/08 Call-in

There were no items identified for call-in.

22/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the latest information from Performance Eye. It was noted that there had been some changes made to the Performance Eye system and Members were strongly encouraged to receive training on the new system to allow them to interrogate it fully. It was noted that some of commentary was missing from the system, but this was mainly due to Government changes in targets.

It was noted that NI192 – percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting was only 42% and the Commission queries whether there was still some confusion over what could be recycled. It was agreed to resend the email containing clarification of this to all Elected Members.

The Commission noted that the baseline figure for carbon emissions given in NI 185 differed from that used by the Commission. It was agreed that further information needed to be requested about what the figure covered and how it was made up to allow the Commission to scrutinise it properly.

The Commission considered CP3.1bii – increase the number of low emission vehicles within the Council's own fleet. The commission felt that Biodiesel was a contentious area, and queried whether B5 Biodiesel was a better sort to use in terms of sustainability. It was reported that the B5 version was the only sort that could be used so as not to invalidate the vehicle warranty, but that this would need to be checked as ideally the fleet would eventually use locally produced waste oils.

Jeremy Fisk reported that he had attended a consultation event on NI 186 – per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in LA area. The report from the event was still being collated by the Derby City Partnership, and would be circulated when available.

Resolved :

- 1. To receive further information on the carbon baseline figure provided in NI 185, to include the component parts of the figure**
- 2. To receive further information on the type of Biodiesel fuel used by the Council's fleet**
- 3. To receive the report on the consultation event when available**
- 4. For Commission Members to familiarise themselves with the changes in the Performance Eye system.**

23/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

No items were identified for retrospective scrutiny.

Neil Norwood provided an update on the results of the meter reading survey. The figures from the survey had been checked, and subsequent results had come in which confirmed the initial findings. The team were in the process of calculating benchmarks and organising further surveys with the Carbon Trust. It was noted that the current gas data was good although the electricity data had been in an inconsistent form. This had now been rectified so benchmarking for the electricity bills would be available soon. It was hoped that the data would allow for savings to be found.

The ebilling would come into force from October with the new supplier, Scottish and Southern Energy. A clause had been placed in the contract to request billing data in the standard EDI format. Currently, the data was being used to look at best practise across Council buildings and compare sites. Reports had been produced by department so that Assistant Directors could be contacted for action.

Resolved to note the update

24/08 Derby Homes – Measures to tackle Climate Change

The Commission received a presentation from Shaun Bennet, Derby Homes, on the work being done by Derby Homes to tackle Climate Change. It was noted that Derby Homes had a long history of energy efficiency. In the 1980s they undertook major insulation programmes and in the 1990s they built two innovative ecohouses – one powered by gas and the other by electric. This was to show that both sources could make the houses perform but the electric house also used solar power. More recently, Derby Homes have joined the decent home programme and fitted 7,000 central heating systems, which are reducing costs as well as energy usage.

It was reported that Derby Homes were trying to get into New Build houses to make them all Code 4 – which use 44% less energy than a normal build, but cost £10,000 more. They were also trying to develop systems for renewable energy, especially in communal buildings. It was noted that behavioural change was also important and energy devices had been purchased for tenants, and the Chief Executive had also funded a £20,000 awareness project.

Derby Homes have added reducing Carbon emissions and running costs to their strategic aims, and are also working with the Council towards their 25% reduction. The baseline Carbon figure measured in 2005 was 1033 tonnes of CO₂, and a 10% saving had been made to make the current figure 905 tonnes. Cardinal Square was identified as the biggest contributor to that figure, but it also included mileage. It was noted that it was important to have a measure of carbon so that progress could be plotted.

Other actions undertaken by Derby Homes included:

- Green Travel to work scheme where employees were encouraged to use alternative methods to get to work for one day a week. Agreement had just been reached with the Unions to allow those employees using public transport to claim an additional 10 minutes at the beginning and end of the day,
- Encouraging home working, and 25% of employees worked from home at least one day a week
- Promotion of car share and walk to work
- Cycle scheme

The Commission welcomed the presentation, and were encouraged to see a major partner taking such proactive steps. It was also encouraging to see the commitment to the masterplan, as Derby Homes felt that the masterplan should be community led and hoped that it would offer some real opportunities to make a difference.

Resolved to note the presentation

25/08 New Ways of Working and Accommodation Strategy

The Commission considered a report regarding New Ways of Working and the Accommodation Strategy. It was reported that the proposals had been through Scrutiny Management and Cabinet, but there was no particular focus on Climate Change issues. Scrutiny Management had asked to be updated at each of their meetings, and the Commission felt it was important for them to be included in these updates when there were issues regarding Climate Change.

The Commission noted that the removal of water coolers in the new building had been highlighted as a saving, but it was unclear as to whether this would be ringfenced as they had requested. The Commission were also disappointed to note that several options for energy saving had been disregarded at this early stage, as they felt that many of the suggestions were sensible and would offer good payback. The Commission felt there was a role for them to be involved before the final decisions went to Cabinet.

Resolved to receive regular updates on the strategy and to request further commission involvement prior to further decisions being made through Cabinet about energy saving measures.

26/08 Update on the National Climate Change Indicators

The Commission received an update on the national climate change indicators. The Government had introduced 195 indicators for measuring the performance of the Local Strategic partnerships. The Local Area Agreement had to agree 35 of these, and 3 of them were direct Climate Change indicators:

NI 185 was concerned with the Council's Carbon Footprint. The Commission were familiar with the 25% reduction commitment, which had already been agreed. It was noted that the energy monitoring and baselining work being done was very important as now the Council was being asked to report on these figures.

NI 186 covered reducing the Carbon Footprint of the city as a whole. This was a difficult indicator as it covered households, transport and local businesses. Information was awaited from the Derby City Partnership to take the indicator forward, but it was encouraging that the indicator gave the Council a clear remit to engage proactively with the city on climate change issues. The Commission were pleased to note that the partnership were actively engaging with this indicator, as it would facilitate future work.

NI 188 looked at the adaption the city was making to be prepared for the next 10-15 years. It was noted that changing weather patterns would be a key to see how prepared the city was for change. The Climate Change Board has received a presentation from a young graduate working across the region who

was looking at extreme weather events and the impact on Council services. It was noted that service managers were already aware of the possible impact on their services, but the impact was not being documented or identified as a future budget pressure.

The Commission agreed that it was important to work proactively with the partners towards these indicators, and were pleased to note that Derby was one of the first authorities to do so.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to receive the presentation given to the Climate Change Board regarding NI 188**

27/08 Climate Change Board – Issues and Outcomes.

The Commission received an oral update on the work of the Climate Change Board. The Commission were pleased to note that the Chair had been to the Board meetings as it made the links between the Commission and the Board more productive. It was noted that some good news stories were coming from the board. Partnership for Renewables (an offshoot of the Carbon Trust) were looking at land holdings to see where there was potential for renewable energy sites. There were 5 identified sites for wind turbines being investigated, and this service was free to the Council.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the update**
- 2. to receive further information on wind turbine sites when available.**

28/08 The Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

The Commission received a further update from Andy Hills, Climate Change Unit, on the cap and trade scheme for Carbon. It was reported that by 2010 there would be a cap on energy usage for Local Authorities and the Private Sector. In its most simplistic form, those going over the cap on energy would be penalised, whilst those who were under would be rewarded. The draft consultation was still awaited but it would force the authority to take energy efficiency to another level. If this was not successful, it would have a major impact on the financial situation of the authority.

The Commission felt that this would require cross party action, as if action was not taken now it could the administration in 2010 very hard. Currently only draft figures were available, and it was noted that it was important to be as accurate as possible with the figures. This was a complex issue, and further guidance was awaited.

Resolved to note the update

29/08 Reduction of Carbon Emissions by Employees in day to day life

The Commission considered a report on potential ways that employees could reduce their carbon emissions on a day to day basis. It was felt that there would be measures that could be easily taken within the council to mitigate the Council's carbon footprint.

Resolved:

- 1. To ask officers to contact the Climate Change Champions asking them for ideas to reduce carbon emissions in offices across the Council**
- 2. To ask the Chair to write an article in Council Life to explain why the Commission is looking for ways to take positive action to reduce carbon emissions and to ask for ideas about how this can be done**
- 3. To ask the Climate Change Unit and Procurement Officers to review what is non-essential but regularly purchased across the Council and has an impact on carbon emissions (Like water coolers).**

30/08 Climate Change Commission Work Plan 2008/09

The commission noted the final draft scoping report of the workplan. It was reported that it built in the work towards NI 186. A questionnaire was being sent this week to all major partners asking them what they were currently doing to tackle climate change, what they were planning to do and what gaps they saw in their actions. The responses would provide a clear snap shot of where the Council was in terms of knowledge base and priorities for Climate Change. It was hoped that a draft report would be available for the next meeting.

The Commission welcomed the questionnaire, and acknowledged that although there was a risk that the partners may not reply, it would offer a good starting point for an overview of the situation and potential for future scrutiny of the partners work.

Resolved to note the progress

31/08 Forward Plan

The Commission considered the latest version of the Forward Plan. No new items relating to the Commission's portfolio had been added.

32/08 Response of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

The Commission considered the Cabinet response to the Carbon Saving Suggestion. It was agreed that an update should come to a future meeting, and to reiterate the request for ring-fenced funding during the budget round.

The Commission considered the Council minute confirming the appointment of co-optees. It was reported that Jane Temple had replied to the Commission's letter saying she had enjoyed her time on the Commission, and wishing them well for the forthcoming year.

Resolved to request an update on the Water Cooler Carbon saving suggestion from the Cabinet Member for the next meeting.

33/08 Matters referred to the Commission from the Council
Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END