

# ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.00pm  
Time finished - 8.20pm

## CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 15 JANUARY 2008

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

### 48/07 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Dhamrait and Councillor Winter

### 49/07 Late Items

There were no late items.

### 50/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 51/07 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 52/07 Call-in

There were no items

### 53/07 Performance Eye

Members of the Commission were provided with a list of Performance Eye indicators. It was reported that there had been little change since the last meeting, and that the commission had already looked at all the red indicators and received explanations from the responsible officers.

It was noted that there was no Performance Eye indicator directly relating to the Council's target to reduce carbon emissions by 25% and so this should be added as a standing agenda item for future meetings. It was reported that the current reduction was at the 2% mark.

**Resolved to note the Performance Eye Indicators and to add the performance towards reducing carbon emissions as a standing agenda item.**

54/07          Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

55/07          Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

The Commission received a report from Steve Medlock, Head of Parks Services, on the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Item 28/07 on the Forward Plan. The previous strategy was developed in 1990, and much had changed since then both politically and socio-economically, and so now the parks needed to change to meet the new circumstances.

The strategy provided a framework and opportunities for consultation. The new strategy would also encompass the Council's corporate priority for Leading Derby towards a better Environment. It was reported that while the strategy had a number of aims, the priority would be to make the parks a place where people wanted to go, and felt safe using the facilities. This would be important for community life, social cohesion, and providing a desirable environment for people to live in. It was reported that the strategy was still in development, but once a draft was ready it would be brought to the Commission for comment.

The Commission noted that this fitted in well with the Neighbourhood working arrangements, and provided an ideal opportunity for local people to take ownership of their open spaces. While it would be impractical for Parks Officers to attend every neighbourhood forum, there was an opportunity for some positive public involvement

**Resolved to note the presentation and to consider ways for the Parks team to engage in neighbourhood forum to promote the strategy.**

56/07          The Council's Travel Plan

The Commission received a briefing from Rod Wood, Assistant Director Human Resources, on the Council's Travel Plan. It was reported that the Council's original travel plan, Journeyscope which began in 2003, had started well but had encountered problems due to funding difficulties. Plans were now in place to restart the Council's travel plan as the current year's Corporate Plan required an action plan for reducing Carbon Emissions. The travel plan was therefore looking at ways to provide incentives for employees to use more sustainable methods of transport.

The proposed action plan would be communicated to employees and a travel survey which would be an update on the survey conducted in 2001, would be

commenced. Also, it was intended to produce a measure for Carbon Emissions for employee travel.

In April 2008, it was hoped to introduce two salary sacrifice schemes to

1. enable employees to purchase bicycles
2. enable employees to purchase bus season tickets, which could be used for business or leisure purposes (this would be only the second such scheme in the country)

These schemes would be cost neutral to Derby City Council, which was important as there was no funding available for them. It was reported that in addition to these incentives, it might also be necessary to look at other means of encouraging sustainable travel. The staff survey would be used to gauge interest in these schemes.

It was reported that Trade Unions and the legal team were being consulted on all of the travel plans. The Commission were pleased to note that both Trent Barton and Arriva has agreed to participate in the season ticket scheme, which meant that it would also cover park and ride schemes in the city. The Chair requested that the team asked Arriva to look into the possibilities for fuel-celled buses, as the season ticket scheme would provide a lot of extra business for them and it would be good to see Arriva contributing to the Climate Change agenda.

### **Resolved to note the report**

## **57/07 Outcomes of the Climate Change Board meeting on 6 December 2007**

The Commission received an update from Andy Hills on the last Climate Change Board meeting. The following key items were reported back.

### **1. Programme Highlight Report**

The Board had started compiling a brief for the Clean Green Energy City Project, which was considering renewable energy options within the city and the economics of using renewable energy. It was acknowledged that this was an ambitious project.

The Board were also holding a half day workshop on 1 February 2008 for the Council's Climate Champions and Green Team members to discuss the best ways to help departments cut their carbon emissions. It was noted that 85% of the council's emissions came from its buildings.

2. The Climate Change Board had endorsed the work of the Climate Change Commission. They had also incorporated the Climate change commission work-plan into their own work-plan. This was welcomed by the Chair.

3. The Corporate Change Action Programme had received some useful comments from the Climate Change Commission, and these had been incorporated into the document. The revised document was now available on the website for members to view. As this was a rolling document, further opportunities could be incorporated into it as they arose.
4. The funding delegation arrangement showed that there was £200,000 available, and outlined how the money would be used. This included two forthcoming posts in the unit, which would have an emphasis on working with schools, funding for part of the travel plan and funding a consultancy contract for an energy survey on council buildings.

The Commission welcomed the update and thanked Andy Hills for all of his hard work. The Commission was particularly pleased to note the increased involvement with local schools. It was felt it was important to engage children with the climate change agenda as they were particularly receptive to the ideas of energy conservation.

#### **Resolved**

- 1) **for Councillor Grimadell to attend the workshop on behalf of the Climate Change Commission.**
- 2) **to note the update and thank Andy Hills for his work**

#### **58/07          Longbridge Weir Hydro Electric Power Station**

The Commission received a report on the proposals for the Longbridge Weir Hydro Electric Power Station (Forward Plan item 41/07) from Tim Findlay, Maintenance Manager, Design Services. It was reported that using Hydro power on the Derwent was not a new idea, but the proposed plans for Longbridge could contribute nearly 4% to the Council's 25% target for carbon reduction.

It was reported that the total cost of the build would be £1.5m and the expected completion date was Easter 2010. The power station was expected to produce enough energy to power the Council House and make it carbon neutral. The value of the generated power would be £130,000, which would make the station self funding. This value could also increase with a rise in utility prices. The expected life span of the power station was 50 years, and little maintenance was expected to be required on it.

#### **Resolved to note report**

#### **59/07          Climate Change Commission - Work Plan**

The Commission received a report on suggestions for how they could deal with the two review topics they had identified from the meeting on 12 November 2007.

It was reported that other local authorities could be identified with similar problems with regards to climate change issues in their areas, and that 3-4 meetings in February could be arranged to get feedback for the next Climate Change Board meeting in March.

It was reported that the Council did have a sustainable procurement policy but it was unclear how extensively it was being used. A meeting had been arranged with Dawn Moran, Head of Procurement, to evaluate the process and to see what improvements could be made. This would be completed by the end of February 2008.

### **Resolved to approve the proposed work programme**

#### **60/07          Revenue Budget**

The Commission met with Andrew Hopkin, Assistant Director Local Environment, to discuss the revenue budget issues relevant to the portfolio of the Commission.

It was reported that due to an increase in land fill tax from the government there would be budget pressures resulting from waste disposal costs,. The proposed £4.2m required was reported to be reflective of this, and there would not be an option to 'do nothing'.

The Commission considered proposals to close Council run city centre public conveniences and negotiate the use of other facilities. It was reported that the current facilities were not providing a good service as they were frequently vandalised and had become locations for anti-social behaviour. It was reported that there was good provision of facilities in the new Westfield shopping centre, and that negotiations were taking place for pubs, shops and restaurants to provide alternative facilities in other locations. The Commission expressed concern at this proposal, as it was felt that a lack of facilities was detrimental to making Derby a welcoming place to visit, especially for those arriving on buses as there was currently no bus station.

The Commission looked at the budget proposals for reducing facilities and subsidies on park activities. It was reported that some play areas required replacement, and the ongoing costs of maintenance and Health and Safety certificates was more than the added value of the facilities. The commission felt that this contradicted the earlier report from Steve Medlock regarding the future of parks, and while it was acknowledged that the proposals for the parks strategy might involve external funding, there was still a need for further clarification of both the proposed budget cuts for parks and how they fitted in with the parks strategy.

The Commission considered proposals for the closure of recycling bring sites within the city. It was reported that nearly the whole city was on the kerbside recycling programme, and so the static sites within communities were not required to the same extent as previously. It was reported that supermarkets had expressed interest in taking over the recycling facilities on their land. The Commission recognised that Derby had one of the most comprehensive kerbside recycling schemes in the Country and that there was significant public support for it. However, it was felt that the removal of all static recycling sites did not send out the right message about the Council's commitment to recycling.

The Commission was told that the further opportunities to make savings identified in the budget papers were were back office savings, for example not filling vacant posts. It was also reported that there would be an introduction of differential changes for bulk collection of items from households. The Chair reported that he felt this had already been introduced, and asked for clarification on how this would contribute to savings in the next financial year.

**Resolved:**

- 1. for the Commission's concern regarding the closure of public conveniences to be recorded**
- 2. to receive further clarification of the Parks Strategy and proposed budget cuts**
- 3. to receive a list of play areas on the proposed closure list**
- 4. to receive a list of all recycling sites within the city, and the volumes of recycling they received**
- 5. to receive further clarification on the introduction of differential charging for disposal of bulk items**
- 6. for the Chair and Vice Chair to meet again on 21 January to discuss their recommendations for the budget proposals and to feed these to the Scrutiny Management Commission through David Romaine.**

**61/07 Capital Budget 2008-2011**

The Commission considered the proposals for the Capital Budget 2008-2011. It expressed particular interest in the ideas to trial 100% biofuels in some of the Council's fleet. It was reported that officers had concerns about using 100% biofuels as it invalidates the manufacturer's warranty for the vehicles..

**Resolved to note the report.**

**62/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan.**

There were no items

**63/07 Response of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission**

There were no items

64/07        Matters referred to the Commission from the Council  
Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END