

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.25pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 2 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor Ingall (Chair)
Councillors Banwait, Hird, Keane, Tuplin, Shanker and
Webb
Jeremy Fisk and Peter Robinson (Co-opted Members)

In Attendance: Councillor Troup (Cabinet Member for Housing and
Environment)

65/09 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chera.

66/09 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

67/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

68/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

69/09 Call-in and Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

70/09 Budget Scrutiny

The Commission received a presentation from Zulf Darr, Assistant Director of Corporate Finance on the Budget Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13. The Assistant Director stated that this year they would be approaching the budget differently. The budget would be constructed by adopting a strategic approach. It was noted that previously departments had been allocated cash limits and had to operate within those parameters. This time all budgets had been considered within the Council as a whole.

The Assistant Director of Corporate Finance outlined the pressures on the Council that have been budgeted for such as £1.5m from 2011/12 because of a revaluation of the Derbyshire Pension Scheme and £600k from 2012/13 for the Building Schools for the Future project.

He also highlighted possible savings such as the DECATS scheme and dividing the pressures through the whole Council.

The Assistant Director also referred to potential budget pressures that allowance had not yet been made, for example, several social care issues and flood prevention, case law that may deprive 16 and 17 year olds of Housing Benefit and instead have to be met from Children and Young People's budget.

Members asked if these projections had been based on the recession continuing and when the recession would ease. The Assistant Director said that the position globally and nationally was very bad. Some economists had predicted that it could be 2031 by the time the country has paid back what it has borrowed during the crisis.

Resolved to note the presentation.

71/09 Update on the Hydro Plant

The Commission received an update on the Hydro Plant for the River Derwent. It was reported that the transfer licence had now been received after 2 years, but was now awaiting the approval of planning permission and the Environmental Agency's decision on the flood modelling. The meeting with the Environmental Agency was to take place on Thursday 5 November 2009. The chair thanked Andy Hills and his team for all the hard work on the project and suggested that after the meeting on 5 November if there were any further issues raised to invite the Environmental Agency to attend a future Commission meeting.

Members questioned what percentage of energy the Council House would use from the Hydro Plants energy produced. It was understood that the Council House would use up to 2% of the energy produced leaving the rest of the energy to be sold into the grid if permitted.

Resolved to note the update.

71/09 Forward Plan Item 101/08 – Generating Wind Energy on Council Owned Land

The Commission received an update on Generating Wind Power on Council Owned Land. The Commission were informed that officers had looked at all Council land available to see if any of it had the potential to be used for the wind turbines, it was noted that there were a limited number of sites suitable. The electricity generated by the wind turbines would not be able to be sold to the energy grid, this would have to be done as part of CHP or run as ESCO.

There could be the chance of in the future for Micro Wind Turbines to be used on new buildings and schools to generate their own electricity.

Members felt that there should be wind turbines in Derby as it would send out a statement about the future of the City, but it was thought that the Council were heading in the right direction and for an update to be brought back to the Commission.

Resolved to note the report.

72/09 Topic Review – Engaging the Population of Derby

The Commission received an update from David Romaine on the topic review about engaging the population of Derby. It was reported that the initial survey results had been circulated for the Commission's information.

Members suggested that a Sub Group of the Commission, to include the Chair and Vice Chair, meet to discuss the results and report back their findings to a future Commission meeting.

Resolved to hold a meeting of the Sub Group and report back its findings to the Commission.

73/09 Draft Performance Review Programme

The Commission received a report considering the topics that would be included in its work plan for the coming year.

Resolved to agree the report.

74/09 Open letter from Derby Campaign against Climate Change to the Leader of Derby City Council

The Commission had a general discussion of the Councils involvement in the 10:10 Carbon Reduction Initiative and questioned about why the Council had only committed to a 3% reduction, which Members felt it was disappointing.

Councillor Troup explained that the 10% could be achieved by individuals but as an organisation the Council would only be able to make the 3% reduction due the unsuitability of the Council buildings. It was noted that the buildings would need long term planning and investments to save energy and reduce carbon emissions.

The Commission enquired about the programme to reduce carbon emissions by 25% in 5 years. Councillor Troup informed members that some areas had

reduced their carbon emissions, such as the new buildings and the new street lighting.

Members raised concerns about the new street lighting, and the amount of energy they consumed. Councillor Troup informed the Commission that the energy consumption was at least 30-40% more than the previous lamps.

The Chair requested that the Commission look into the contract of the street lighting as the commission had believed that the new lights should have been using less energy.

Agreed to receive a report on the street lighting contract at a future meeting of the Commission.

75/09 Screening of the 'NOT Evil, Just Wrong' film at the Council House

The Commission had a general discussion on the film shown by Councillor Leeming, Not Evil, Just Wrong. The Commission members suggested that they watch the video, so a debate could take place afterwards, although the role of the Commission would not be to scrutinise the film. Derby Campaign against Climate Change would organise the viewing of the film.

Resolved to note the arrangement to screen the film.

76/09 Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

77/09 Response of Council and Council Cabinet to recommendations of the Commission

There were no items.

78/09 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END