

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.45pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
23 JUNE 2008

Present: Councillor Williams (In the Chair)
Councillors Chera, Graves, Hird, Ingall, Tuplin and
Shanker

In attendance: Councillors Troup

01/08 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Grimadell and Mitchell

02/08 Late Items

A Local Government Information Unit Paper on Climate Change was circulated to Commission Members for information.

03/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/08 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/08 Call-in

There were no items identified for call-in. Members considered the new protocol for call-in, which provided a clear guide to the process and a pro-forma for submitting call-ins. Members welcomed the guide as a useful and well written protocol.

Resolved to note the new protocol

06/08 Co-Opted Members

Members of the Commission were asked to consider co-opting Peter Robinson and Bob Hewins from the Derby Climate Change Campaign, and Jeremy Fisk from C-Changes to the Commission for the 2008/09 municipal year.

Resolved :

- 1. To recommend to Council to Co-opt Peter Robinson, Bob Hewins and Jeremy Fisk to the Climate Change Commission for 2008/09 municipal year**
- 2. To write to Jane Temple to give thanks for her work on the Commission during the 2007/08 municipal year.**

07/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the latest Performance Eye data relevant to their portfolio. Members were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Performance Eye system, as it was felt that this would help commission members to actively contribute to discussions on indicators. It was also felt it would be useful to invite officers on an ad-hoc basis to discuss indicators Members felt were of interest.

The Commission discussed the BV82 indicators. It was queried as to the impact that the bin strike would have on these indicators, as it was felt that there was a potential negative impact as a result of the strikes. It was reported that it was too early to see the impact, but it would be useful to receive information once the impact was known.

The Commission asked for clarification on the types of plastics which could and could not be recycled in the Council's recycling schemes as it was felt that there was some confusion regarding suitable plastics.

Resolved:

- 1. For Commission Members to familiarise themselves with the Performance Eye system and to contact the Overview and Scrutiny Team if they require any training.**
- 2. To receive updates on the impact of the bin strikes on the BV82 indicators**
- 3. To received clarification of the types of plastic which could be put in the recycling bins.**

08/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

The Commission discussed items they wished to consider for retrospective scrutiny. It was felt that there may be some value in scrutinising the impact of carbon emission policies for planning applications, and how this worked in practise. It was reported that the Planning team would not be able to action this request until after the new supplementary planning documents were available, and this was unlikely to happen until the next municipal year. It was agreed to raise this with the planning team and consider further scrutiny once the information was available.

The Commission received an update from Neil Norwood on the meter survey and progress towards centralised energy billing for the Council. It was

reported that a years worth of data had been collected by the survey, which had allowed the team to produce a more accurate baseline figure for energy consumption and carbon emissions. It was reported that the data could provide an opportunity to benchmark sites to target poor performers. It was noted that the readings were based on bills and so there were some estimated readings, but it was reported that any building which received three consecutive estimates would be required to have a meter reading.

Resolved :

- 1. To notify Overview and Scrutiny of any items Members identified for retrospective scrutiny**
- 2. To receive an update on the carbon emission policies required for planning applications.**
- 3. For Commission Members to consider ideas to promote energy savings within the council**
- 4. To receive a briefing note from Neil Norwood at the next Commission Meeting with as detailed a breakdown as possible of the findings of the metre reading survey including if possible a breakdown by department, areas of poor performance and details of the financial costs of automated metre reading**

09/08 Update on Longbridge Weir Hydroelectric Plant

The Commission received an update from Tim Findlay, Maintenance Manager, on the Longbridge Weir Hydroelectric Plant. It was reported that there was £1.5 million of funding from prudential borrowing available for the development, and £160,000 of funding had been approved to develop the hydropower house. It was reported that the development of the house was linked to the Riverlights development, therefore there was a possibility of some slippage on the estimated timescale due to delays in the Riverlights development. This meant that the hydro power house would need to be able to be a stand alone building. The 'power on' date for the plant was still scheduled for April 2010. It was reported that the planning application for the plant would be submitted by the end of July, although it was noted that additional planning applications would need to be submitted for the bridge connecting the plant to the Riverlights development.

Resolved to note the update.

10/08 'Cap and Trade' Scheme for managing carbon emissions

The Commission received a report detailing the proposals for the introduction of a Council-wide carbon trading/budget scheme. It was reported that a national statutory carbon emissions 'cap and trade' scheme was under development by the Government, and was likely to be imposed on local authorities by 2010. It was noted that this would have a cost implication of

around £340,000 to the Council, as carbon credits would need to be bought to meet the current emissions. It was reported that the cap would not include green energy generation (for example energy used with the Street Lighting Project) as it was solely aimed at reducing energy consumption.

The Commission felt that there was good work going on in carbon reductions across the Council, but felt that there was a role for the Commission to suggest further areas of carbon savings. It was agreed that a good place to start would be to remove water coolers from Council buildings, as this created an opportunity to save both emissions and money for the Council.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to recommend to Cabinet that all water coolers in the Council be removed and any budget savings be ring-fenced for the Climate Change Unit**

11/08 Building Schools for the Future – how Climate Change mitigation measures will be incorporated into the new schools.

The Commission received a report from Tim Findlay, Maintenance Manager, on the Building Schools for the Future project. It was reported that the Building Schools for the Future project was still in its infancy therefore it was too early to see how well the project would meet its green aims.

It was noted that it would be possible to bid for funds to implement green measures in schools, but as the funding was limited to £50/sqm on a £2000/sqm build cost then the funding was unlikely solve any of the major problems. It was reported that Derek Jinks from property services was a member of the Building Schools for the Future Board, and would keep the Climate Change Commission informed of any developments.

Resolved:

- 1. to note report**
- 2. to keep a watching brief on the Building Schools for the Future Programme and receive updates when appropriate**

12/08 Monitoring and Reporting of Carbon Emissions from Council Activities

The Commission received an update from Andy Hills, Climate Change Unit, on carbon emissions from council activities. It was reported that the recent Performance Indicators introduced by the Government for the Local Area Agreement included three climate change indicators – NI 185, NI 186 and NI 188, and this was felt to be encouraging as it raised the profile of climate change activity. It was reported that NI 186 reported on the Carbon emissions across the city, and the Commission felt that it would be important to work with the Derby City Partnership towards this target. It was agreed that closer working with the partnership would be vital to ensure these targets were met.

It was reported that the baseline figure for carbon emissions in Derby had been calculated by DEFRA, but there was some concern regarding the methodology used to obtain this figure. The Commission agreed there would be value in receiving further details on these figures so they could see the methodology used to calculate emissions.

The Commission queried whether NI 185 also included the carbon emissions from Derby Homes. It was agreed that it was important to clarify this and to investigate what action Derby Homes were taking with regards to climate change.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the update**
- 2. to receive further information on the carbon emission calculation from DEFRA**
- 3. to work with the Derby City Partnership on the National Indicators for Climate Change**
- 4. to find out if Derby Homes are included in NI 185**
- 5. to liaise with Derby Homes regarding their work on Climate Change**

13/08 Climate Change Commission Work Plan for 2008-2009

The Commission considered the Climate Change Board requirements for the forthcoming municipal year. It was reported that the new Climate Change programme was available on the website, and laid out the activities for the year. It was noted that a range of activities were planned, some of which were innovative and ambitious projects, but more challenging projects were needed to highlight the issues of Climate Change. This should be done at both Board and Commission level. The Commission were encouraged to bring other suggestions for activities they could undertake to the next meeting.

The Commission considered the Council Life article regarding the schools initiative for recycling. Commission members had visited local schools and were surprised at the lack of recycling facilities available. It was agreed that this should be investigated further by the commission.

The Commission considered items for their work plan. Suggestions included water, biodiesel, holding larger meetings to allow the public access to information on climate change and considering possibilities for free insulation. It was agreed that joint working with the Derby City Partnership would be important, as it was felt that as the Industrial Revolution was spearheaded by Derby, then Climate change revolution should be spearheaded by the Derby link.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the Climate Change Board Work Programme**
- 2. To contact the Assistant Overview and Scrutiny Officer as soon as possible with any suggestions for future work plan items.**

3. for Councillor Hird to investigate the schools recycling scheme in her locality and report back to a future Commission meeting.
4. for the Chair and Vice-Chair to meet with officers and develop suggestions for topic reviews to and for a scoping report to be circulated to members
5. for members to contact the Overview and Scrutiny team with any further suggestions for topic review items.

14/08 Council Cabinet Forward Plan.

The Commission considered items on the Forward Plan relating to their portfolio.

Resolved to receive a report on the forward plan item 80/07 'Preferred Solution for Waste Treatment and Disposal' to a future meeting

15/08 Response of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

The Commission considered the Cabinet response to the reports to the Climate Change Board from the Commission.

Resolved to note the report

16/08 Matters referred to the Commission from the Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END