

Time commenced - 6.04pm
Time finished - 7.58pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
31 MARCH 2009

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair)
Councillors Chera, Hird, Grimadell, Ingall, Keane,
Shanker and Tuplin
Peter Robinson, Bob Hewins and Jeremy Fisk (Co-opted
Members)

In attendance: Councillor Troup

74/08 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

75/08 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

The Chair asked how Members of the Commission had travelled to the meeting. It was noted that this was by cycling or walking on the whole, with Councillor Ingall using a Toyota "Green Car". The Commission received a presentation from Will Johnson of Toyota on the car, which was being developed alongside the hybrid model to try and integrate green technology into everyday transport life.

The Chair noted that she was pleased that all members had taken up the challenge and asked them to keep it up for future meetings.

76/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

77/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to Councillor Chera's apologies being added.

78/08 Call-In

No items were identified for call-in.

Items for Discussion

79/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered a report on Performance Eye. The officer provided the latest information, reporting that there were no new red indicators for the commission to consider.. The Commission were requested to let the officer know if they wanted to look at any of the indicators in more detail. The Commission were informed that NI 195 had completed its baseline year and so there had been no indicator information this year for the commission to compare progress to. It was suggested that the forthcoming municipal year would be a good time for the commission to observe this indicator. The Commission agreed to undertake a ward visit to look at problems covered by indicators present in different wards. Members were asked to email the officer with suggestions in their own wards and agreed to put programme together based on responses.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. for Members to email the officer with suggestions for visits in their own wards based on the problems to be addressed through NI 195;**
- 3. to follow the progress of NI 195.**

80/08 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change

The Commission received a presentation from Liz Rushton and Ben Hunt on NI 188 – Planning to adapt to Climate Change. It was reported that the Council had achieved levels 0 and 1, and were currently working towards level 2. It was noted that record keeping was bad during times of extreme weather as it becomes a lower priority. Members highlighted this as area of concern and requested that further monitoring take place as part of progress towards level 3.

Resolved to note the presentation.

81/08 Climate Change Champions Network

The Commission received a presentation from Andy Hills on the Climate Change Champions Network. It was reported that positive steps had been taken which now allowed climate change champions to get time off work for climate change activities. Assistant Directors had also been identified from each directorate to help forward the climate change agenda with staff. It was felt that this showed commitment from departments to the climate change champions work. Members were informed that the champions were now split into three new groups, which covered energy monitoring, recruitment and retention and campaigning. However, it was also recognised that there really was a need to increase the ratio of champions to staff to get the message across. This would be assisted in part by using internal

communications methods to promote awareness of the champions – for example by using pay slips to encourage other members of staff to become climate change champions.

Members noted there were problems for energy reduction champions as there were no incentives for managers to reduce energy usage as they did not see the savings. This was because it could be difficult to give figures on how much energy was being used already. The Commission felt that it would be important to meet with the energy reduction champions to see how they can help to forward their work, including liaising with Cabinet on their behalf when appropriate.

It was reported that during the Council House vs Roman House competition to try and save energy, Roman House had reduced energy consumption by 6%, whereas the Council House had increased their consumption over the same period. This showed that there was potential for savings, but there needed to be new ways of getting the message across. It was suggested that the Commission consider the idea of a Member Climate Change Champion to help to bring further attention and support to the issues faced..

Resolved:

- 1. to meet with the Assistant Director Climate Change champions regularly over the next year to find out what the problems and barriers are for departments in tackling climate change problems;**
- 2. for the commission to meet with the energy monitoring group of champions to talk about their experiences;**
- 3. for members to consider the idea of a Member Climate change champion.**

82/08 Climate Change Board Update

The Commission received an update from Andy Hills on Climate Change Board. Andy had received the commission's topic review and thanked the members for undertaking it, as it had supported the work of the board and helped to keep their work on track. It was noted that the report provided the initial response to the recommendations, but the Board had also received a report from the Carbon Trust commenting on the work of the Unit and this had also offered a number of suggestions for taking the work of the Unit forward.

The Commission requested that the officer combine the responses to both reports and develop a new strategy for the board which would consider all of these recommendations and take the work forward. It was agreed to receive the strategy at the next suitable meeting as part of the consultation on it. It was noted that an action plan would be required to go alongside the strategy.

The Chair gave thanks to Councillor Troup for allowing her to participate in the board meetings as this had enabled the two bodies to work much more closely together.

Resolved

- 1. to receive the response from the Climate Change Board at a future meeting**
- 2. to receive the Climate Change Board strategy to a future meeting as part of the consultation on it.**

83/08 Waste Treatment Plant

The Commission considered a report on Waste Treatment Plant from Laura Follows, OSCer. At their meeting on 13 January 2009 Council Cabinet selected United Utilities and Interserve as the preferred bidder for the City Council's joint waste management contract with Derbyshire County Council. United Utilities and Interserve had confirmed that a waste treatment plant would be used to treat the City and County's waste through recycling and heat treatment and that the plant would incorporate a facility for electricity generation. The next step in the process would be for the United Utilities and Interserve to submit a planning application to the City Council. The Commission agreed that it needed to be kept involved in the scrutiny of the plant. The next step would be the submission of the planning application, and as part of this the contractor would be required to submit an environmental impact assessment of the plant. This would contain emissions information which was of interest to the Commission but had not yet been made available to them due to commercial sensitivities. The Commission agreed it would be sensible for them to be involved, and was important that they got a chance to scrutinise the plant further.

Resolved to hold a special meeting of the commission after the planning application had been submitted to consider the Environmental Impact Assessment and to submit any comments to the appropriate body for consideration.

84/08 Update on Schools Competition

The Commission considered an update on schools competition. In October 2008, the Chair had attended a State of the City Forum to talk about Climate Change. At the event, a young person had suggested that a competition for schools be introduced to address climate change issues. At the Climate Change commission meeting on 11 November 2008, the commission considered the idea of a schools competition. It was agreed that this would be a positive way to engage local schools with climate change action.

The Commission noted that the prize fund had increased to over £600 per category. It was reported that there had been some interest already but it was difficult to know what the uptake would be until entries were submitted. Members felt that it was important to encourage schools to enter and requested that the officer made contact with a percentage of the schools to encourage them to apply.

Resolved to contact a proportion of all schools again to encourage them to apply.

85/08 Work Programme

The Commission considered a report on Work Programme. Members were asked to consider items for next years work programme and email the officer with any further items.

Resolved to note the report.

86/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items identified.

87/08 Member Satisfaction Survey

The Commission were reminded to complete and return the survey to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer if had not already done so.

88/08 Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

89/08 Response of Council and Council Cabinet to
recommendations of the Commission

The responses were noted.

90/08 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

91/08 Matters referred to the Commission by the Scrutiny
Management Commission

There were no items referred.

MINUTES END