

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.49pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION 14 SEPTEMBER 2009

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

50/09 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shanker and Webb.

51/09 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

52/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

53/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2009 and 29 July and 19 August 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

54/09 Call-in and Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

55/09 Warm Zone

The Commission received a presentation from Miranda Cumberbatch, Affordable Warmth Programme Manager, and Phil Angus, Manager of the Nottingham Energy Partnership on Nottingham Warm Zone Home Insulation Programme. It was reported that the Warm Zone programme targeted the private residential sector (homeowners and private tenants) to provide energy efficiency measures. These included offering Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) measures, like loft insulation, advice on benefits and grants available for other home insulation measures, free low energy light bulbs and free insulation for the over 65s. The scheme was operated on a door to door approach where every household in a ward was contacted up to three times to provide a free home energy assessment and advice on schemes that the

householders could take advantage of. The wards were selected initially using the index of multiple deprivation and fuel poverty statistics. The team aimed for 40% of households to undertake an assessment, with 18% receiving installations, with this rising to 23% by the end of the three year period.

It was reported that the Warm Zone worked on a partnership approach with a utility company, the Nottingham Energy Partnership, the City Council + the Primary Care Trust. It was noted that the partnership approach worked because there were mutually beneficial outcomes for all partners such as utility companies had carbon reduction targets and the Primary Care Trust could address tackling health inequalities. The approach of house by house basis had also allowed opportunities for householders other needs to be addressed such as the elderly got assessed for adaptation devices (grab rails) and students could get belongings smart watered.

The Commission welcomed the presentation and asked whether this was something Derby could consider doing. It was reported that the size of the current home energy team in Derby and the level of funding available meant this would not be possible without considerable investment. The Commission felt Derby City Council could learn from the Warm Zone team and agreed that Chair, Home Energy Advice Manager and Cabinet Member would arrange visit to Warm Zone.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the presentation;**
- 2. for the Chair of the Commission to visit Warm Zone in Nottingham.**

56/09 Energy Monitors

The Commission received a report from Richard Murrell, Home Energy Advice Manager, on the pilot scheme to loan energy monitors through libraries. The loans began in three libraries across city, Allenton, Alvaston and Central Libraries. These loans were on a four week basis through the normal library system. It was noted that each library had 6 monitors, and during the pilot 57 loans were made and a further 27 hold requests were received. The initial anecdotal evidence was that the monitors had been well received and from 19 October 2009 the scheme would be rolled out to all libraries in the city.

It was reported that the roll out would coincide with the home energy and climate change tour of libraries planned for November and December and that a new range of climate change and energy efficiency materials would be bought by libraries to support the promotion. A feedback sheet had been prepared for those loaner monitors to see how users got on with them. It was key to note that officers had to work out the capacity of the libraries to deal with the monitor loans and the resulting feedback as they needed to make sure scheme was mutually beneficial.

Resolved to note the report.

57/09 Carbon Reduction Commitment

The Commission received a report from Tim Findlay, Head of Climate Change and Energy Management, on the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). It was reported that the CRC was a cap and trade scheme for carbon whereby participating organisations would need to buy allowances to cover their carbon emissions. The emission levels would then have to be reported on an annual basis to the government, and the participants in the scheme would be ranked in a league table, depending on proportion of emissions they had emitted as a percentage of the total emissions from all of the participants. As the scheme was intended to be revenue neutral, the emissions levels would then be reflected in the payments authorities receive back from the government from the monies raised through sale of allowances (Recycling payments). This would be adjusted by any bonus or penalty that the participants had incurred.

It was noted that initially, allowances would be at a cost of £12/tonne of carbon. The concept was that any projects that were cheaper than £12/tonne of carbon should be done whereas any projects costing more than £12/tonne it would be more cost effective to buy allowances for. The cost of allowances would increase after initial three year capped period, meaning more projects would become viable to undertake lowering the level of emissions.

It was reported that there were heavy penalties associated with the CRC so it was important to get it right. It was also noted that Derby City Council, as the main parent organisation, would be responsible for reporting emissions from other subsidiary organisations where they have a controlling interest including all schools in the area. This was a particular concern as there was no onus on subsidiary members to take action as Derby City Council was responsible for purchasing credits on their behalf but could not pass on any of the penalties. However it was noted that there were potential plans for any subsidiary who was responsible for a poor performance in the league table to be charged a proportionate amount for a fine incurred by the parent organisation.

It was noted that at the current time, the cost of providing energy was still greater than the cost of the CRC during the initial capped phase, therefore a key focus of energy management needed to be on reduced consumption.

The Commission agreed that it was important that the Council had a good understanding of scheme and suggested that the presentation be re-packaged for other audiences so that they could understand the impact that this could have.

Resolved to note the report.

58/09 Update on the Hydro Plant

The Commission received an update from Tim Findlay, Head of Climate Change and Energy Management, on the proposed Hydroplant for the Derwent. It was noted that the Environment Agency had not yet granted a license and had asked for an extension of two months to finalise plans. However, it was felt that a license was likely to be granted with caveats. The team felt confident that these could be met and so had asked the design team to look again at the proposals for the design of the plant to make it workable. If the license was granted and planning permission obtained then work would be expected to start at Easter 2010, with completion in October 2010. The CO₂ impact would be 700tCO₂e/year saving.

Resolved to note the update.

59/09 Topic Review – Engaging the Population of Derby

The Commission received an update on Topic review – Engaging the Population of Derby. The review was designed to find out what the general population felt about climate change and what they were prepared to do about it. At the pre-meeting the Chair and Vice Chair offered a range of options of how to undertake this research, but agreed that would be beneficial to undertake external market research with the general public to reach out to people don't normally come into contact with Council. This would be in two parts, the first talking about general attitudes towards climate change, the other asking more specific questions about what actions people had actually undertaken such as composting and turning the thermostat down. It was hoped this would give a good picture of what was actually going on in the City and would allow the Climate Change Board to focus the communications strategy in most appropriate way.

Members noted that there would be a cost implication to this research and the Commission agreed to spend the research budget on this as it would be important to contact those who were not already contactable through existing communication methods. It was hoped the research would be undertaken in October with the preliminary results coming to the Commission in November. In the meantime the Commission agreed to receive email updates rather than special meetings to keep up to date with the research.

Resolved;

- 1. To request Scrutiny Management Commission to approve the budget to be spent on research;**
- 2. To request that the officer continue with the research as outlined, and keep the Commission informed via email;**
- 3. To receive an update at the November Commission meeting.**

60/09 Performance Eye

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the Performance Eye. The Commission noted the changes to the Corporate indicators and milestones that were now included alongside the national indicators and the LAA indicators. The annual indicators were included as two new ones that were not seen before, they were NI 191 – Residual household waste and NI 194a – % reduction in NOx emissions in Local Authority Operations.

Members asked specific questions on indicator NI 185 as well as on the local indicators relating to reduction in Carbon emissions. The Commission were informed that the relevant officer could attend a future meeting if they wanted more detail on any of the indicators.

Resolved to note that the scrutiny commission scorecards have now been updated on Performance Eye to include the 2009 Corporate Plan indicators and milestones as well as National Indicators and LAA indicators.

61/09 Forward Plan

There were no items.

62/09 Response of Council and Council Cabinet to recommendations of the Commission

There were no items.

63/09 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

64/09 Matters referred to the Commission by the Scrutiny Management Commission

There were no items.

MINUTES END