

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.55pm

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
10 FEBRUARY 2009

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

In attendance: Councillor Carr

54/08 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird and Grimadell.

55/08 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

The Chair reported that Councillor Shanker had been appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Commission. The commission welcomed Councillor Shanker, and gave their thanks to Councillor Ingall for all of his hard work as vice-chair.

The Chair and members of the Commission noted that the refurbishment of the Council House had been postponed and gave further consideration to the proposal to remove the water coolers. The Commission felt that the removal of the water coolers offered the opportunity to make some valuable carbon savings and there would also be a potential financial saving of £50,000. It was also confirmed to members that safe drinking water available to staff from the mains water supply.

When the Commission originally considered the proposal to remove the water coolers they were told that there had been an increase in the use of non-essential electrical equipment, like water coolers, across the Council in recent years that this had significantly added to the Council's carbon emissions. This increase was exacerbated by the water delivery vehicles' emissions and removal of water coolers would eliminate some of these problems.

The Commission were satisfied that the removal of water coolers offered a valuable opportunity for the Council to take action that would contribute to its NI185 targets.

The termination of the water cooler contracts also offered the opportunity for significant financial savings. These were estimated in July 2008 as being in the order of £50,000. This money could be used for environmental projects which would provide further carbon savings.

Resolved to ask that Council Cabinet revisit the decision to terminate all the Council's water cooler contracts.

56/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

57/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

58/08 Call-In

No items were identified for call-in.

Items for Discussion

59/08 Update on Schools Projects

The Commission received an oral report from Malcolm Price on the Schools Recycling Pilot Scheme. It was reported that there had been some problems initially but these were not unexpected. They included issues with storage of waste in the classrooms, the collection times of the bins, encouraging children to separate the rubbish and the time it took to remove staples and tape. The Commission were informed of the updates on how the department were working to resolve the issues with the schools. The Commission noted that if the recommendations of the situational report were agreed by Council Cabinet there would be a co-ordinator in place to help schools work together to solve these issues and learn from each other. The Chair also suggested that schools be encouraged to consider using some of their under spend to address climate change issues, and the introduction of a co-ordinator role would support them in doing this.

Resolved to note the report.

60/08 Update on recycling

The Commission received an oral report from Malcolm Price on recycling. It was reported that an up to date leaflet had been distributed to households within the City to inform residents of new materials that had been added to the list of recyclables.

Members raised concerns that there was still some confusion about the specifics on the leaflet such as what could and could not be recycled including:

- Aluminium foil (if it is rigid then it can be recycled, and can be taken to Raynesway)

- Coloured paper (if when torn it shows as white on the inside then it can be recycled)
- Polystyrene (if it looks like normal polystyrene then it can be recycled)

Members suggested that the issues highlighted should be considered for the future when the next scheduled leaflet was to be distributed.

The officer reported that Derby has one of highest recycling rates in the East Midlands and the majority of the residents within the City were getting recycling right.

The Chair asked Commission members to take the issues raised concerning the leaflets to their local neighbourhood boards and forums to raise local awareness of the changes to residents.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. for commission members to raise awareness of recycling in their neighbourhood boards and forums**

61/08 Waste Treatment Plant

The Commission received a presentation from Barry Scotchbrook, Waste Treatment Engineer, on the proposed Waste Treatment Plant. It was reported that the plant would have a capacity for processing 200,000 tonnes of waste, but was expected to process 180,000 tonnes per annum. This allowed for some leeway in the growth of waste during high volume periods such as Christmas. The minimum operating level for the plant would be 149,000 tonnes per annum.

It was noted that the national waste strategy had a 50% recycling target yet Derby's own recycling target was 55%. The waste plant was expected to recycle an additional 10% of its throughput, to add to the current recycling rates by an increase of around 4.5%. The officer reported that even if there was a zero growth in waste for the next 25 years, the city would need to be at a 65% recycling rate before it would need to look for additional waste to keep the plant viable. All city waste could be processed through the plant unless it was inappropriate to do so. It was noted that the County Council may still need to send some waste to landfill sites because of the size of the area they were dealing with.

The officer informed the Commission that the plant did emit CO₂ but did not increase the overall carbon footprint of City. By diverting waste from landfill and minimising transport movements, combined with the electricity produced from the plant, this would reduce the global warming impact of the city by the equivalent of 48,000 tonnes of CO₂ (as calculated by the Environment Agency's WRATE tool). It was reported that the technology used by the suppliers had reported emission levels below the EU permitted limits.

Members raised concerns about the transport predictions previously compiled. It was reported that the current transport predictions on vehicles was based on a survey done by the Council for the contractors, and showed a less than 3% increase in traffic due to the waste plant. It was noted that this would be considered as part of the operators planning application. The results differed from the figures released previously but as the recent results were based on survey results the officers were confident these were the more accurate.

Resolved to receive a further presentation from the contractors after the planning application had been submitted.

62/08 Update on Performance Indicators

The Commission received an oral report from Andy Hills on the Performance Indicators NI 185, NI 186 and NI 188.

NI 185 – Percentage CO2 reductions from Local Authority Activities

It was reported that at the current rate of progress the Council would struggle to meet this target because there was a desperate need for investment in buildings, which were the biggest source emissions. It had been hoped that the Council House refurbishment scheme would have helped achieve this target, but now the scheme had been delayed, the Council would struggle to get one major cut in emissions. It was noted that there were potentially other 'big projects' on the horizon but these would not necessarily be able to count towards emission reductions. The Council would need to look at other options, for example, reduced heating in offices to legally allowed levels rather than allowing individual offices to set the heating to their own preferences to save emissions that way.

The Chair asked what learning had been taken from the competition between the Council House and Roman House to cut emissions. The officer agreed to bring back detail to the next meeting as lots of positive work had undertaken by the climate change champions network.

The Commission agreed the need to look at ways in which emissions could be cut, as it was disappointing that there was not going to be one 'big hit' reduction through improved buildings in refurbishment process in the near future. However, the Commission felt it was important to have challenging targets such as this to work towards as it showed the Council how important every action they undertook to reduce emissions would be.

NI 186 – Per capita CO2 reductions in the Local Authority Area

It was reported that the methodology for this indicator was very complicated and the officer stated that the Commission may find it more useful to have this circulated by email to them.

The Chair stated that the Commission needed to get neighbourhoods and forums on side, as there was good work going on locally which needed to be counted towards this indicator. The officer agreed but stated that there was a

need to find best way forward as not all neighbourhoods were in a position to take on board these issues into a local work programme at the current time and so there would need to be clarity on what would be expected of them.

NI 188 – Planning to adapt to Climate Change

It was reported that the Council were already at level one for this indicator, and were ahead of other local authorities in the region. It was noted that a detailed presentation would be brought to the next meeting of the Commission.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive the NI186 methodology by email;**
- 2. To receive a presentation at the next meeting on learning from ongoing climate change activities within the Council and the work of climate change champions network.**

63/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered the latest data from Performance Eye. It was reported that there had been no changes to the indicators since the last meeting of the Commission as quarter three data was still awaited.

Resolved to note the performance indicators within the remit of the Commission and inform the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator as soon as possible if members required to look at any of the indicators in further detail.

64/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

No items were identified for retrospective scrutiny.

65/08 Salix Funding

The Commission received an oral report from Neil Norwood on Salix Funding. It was reported that there were difficulties with the current set up for allocating SALIX funding as it was a loan agreement that required several stages of sign off, making the process lengthy which could lead to delays. It was hoped that the proposed changes in the energy unit would alleviate this, but it also required a single point of contact for co-ordination and sign off on this. The Commission agreed that a legal steer also needed to ensure that the sign off arrangements stayed within the legal framework.

Resolved to note that Neil Norwood would liaise with legal services and the Director of Resources to identify ways to improve the co-ordination of the SALIX funding process.

66/08 Partnership for Renewables

The Commission received an oral report from Andy Hills on the Partnership for Renewables. It was reported that the Council were looking at the possibilities for wind energy, and had identified sites within the city that could be suitable for wind farms. It was noted that the Climate Change Unit were currently liaising with the Head of Legal Services and would bring any further information on wind sites to a future meeting of the Commission. Councillor Ingall requested to attend the meeting on behalf of the Commission.

Resolved to receive further information on wind farms at the next meeting of the Commission and to request that Councillor Ingall attends the meeting on behalf of the Commission.

67/08 Forward Plan

The Commission considered a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer on the Forward Plan. It was noted that there were no items specific to the Commission's portfolio at this time, but there were a number of identified items which had possible climate change implication, including the proposed Cycle Strategy.

The Chair issued a challenge to all Commission members to come to next meeting by cycle or by public transport to highlight the role of councillors as leaders in this area.

68/08 Scrutiny Structure for Effective Scrutiny of Partner Organisations

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on a proposed Scrutiny Structure for Effective Scrutiny of Partner Organisations. It was reported that when the Comprehensive Area Assessment comes into effect, the Audit Commission will assess the council on how well it scrutinises its partners. The Council has therefore needed to adopt a new scrutiny structure to make sure that it is able to scrutinise partner organisations and especially to check progress against delivery of the LAA targets. It was noted that the Derby City Partnership (DCP) was divided into 'cities', which considered various aspects of partnership working in Derby, similar to the scrutiny structure in operation at the Council. This allowed for a natural 'matching' of cities and scrutiny commissions.

The Scrutiny Management Commission considered options for the new scrutiny structure on 29 September 2008, and the preferred option was approved by Full Council on 19 November 2008. The appendix 2 of the report showed the new structure and the closer linkage between the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions and the DCP Cities. The Climate Change Commission potentially linked to all of the DCP cities and so the Commission are asked to consider the best way for them to get involved with scrutiny of the different cities. It was agreed to use the Commissions overlap to provide feedback.

Members from the Climate Change Commission on other Commissions would be asked to highlight partnership issues with Climate Change outcomes and ask them to inform the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer to add the

agenda item to report back anything of particular interest. The overlap of commissions was as follows:

Adult Services and Health (Councillors Keane and Tuplin)
Children and Young People Commission (Councillor Williams)
Community (Councillor Chera)
Planning and Transportation (No member but Councillor Williams to receive agendas)
Scrutiny Management (Councillor Graves)

Resolved:

- 1. to note the new scrutiny structure**
- 2. for members to report relevant climate change issues arising within the partnership to the co-ordination officer for consideration by the commission at a future meeting.**

70/08 Carbon Free TV

The Commission received an oral update from Andy Hills on the Carbon Free TV which is a resource available through the Council's website. The website used a variety of online media to raise awareness of climate change issues. It was noted that initially the Council had signed up to the site for year on trial basis, but the cost to renew was estimated to be £1,000. It was agreed by Commission members that they didn't believe staff had time to use the service, even if they were interested in the issues it covered. The Commission felt there were better ways use £1,000 so do not recommend renewing the contract.

Resolved to note the update.

71/08 Response of Council and Council Cabinet to recommendations of the Commission

There were no items.

72/08 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet to recommendations of the Commission

There were no items referred.

73/08 Matters referred to the Commission by the Scrutiny Management Commission

There were no items referred.

MINUTES END

