

ENERGY REVIEW

LEAD OFFICER: Tim Capper, Head of Democratic Services
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Recommendation: that the Committee considers the response of the Executive to the committee's recommendations from the Energy Review Task and Finish Group.

1. BACKGROUND

The Committee will recall that at its meeting on 10 October 2007 it considered a report from the Energy Review Task and Finish Group and agreed the recommendations from that review.

The recommendations were that:

(A) the Council examine the feasibility of Cumbrian authorities working together on Climate Change to ensure possible savings and efficiencies of service and that opportunities for joint working on sustainable development be explored with neighbouring authorities,

(B) Officers ensure that the Council makes an appropriate input into the Cumbrian Climate Change Strategy,

(C) external training on Climate Change and other sustainable development issues be given to the Council and be commenced by the end of the Municipal year at the latest,

(D) the work done by the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's fleet be welcomed and supported,

(E) Cumbria County Council be requested to consider St Gregory's and St Patrick's Catholic Infant School in Whitehaven as a best practice example to help other schools in Cumbria on how to acquire and use renewable energy and to reduce their carbon footprint,

(F) from now on a greater emphasis be put on developers to use renewable energy in new developments and to improve energy efficiency,

(G) the Council should place greater priority and resources into dealing with energy efficiency, affordable warmth and fuel poverty,

(H) in light of recommendation (G) above, the Council fills the current vacant sustainability officer post as soon as possible to deal with climate change, energy efficiency, affordable warmth and fuel poverty targets and priority is given to these issues within the post,

(I) the Car Parking Officer Task Group is requested to investigate the feasibility of the Council introducing a Travel to Work Plan,

(J) Sellafield Ltd be asked when their travel to work plan will be completed and this issue be placed on the agenda for the next quarterly update meeting with the British Nuclear Group,

(K) the Council provide a scheme for the installation of energy efficiency measures for people on benefits and provide £100,000 per annum until 2010 as grants to enable those people who live in private dwellings and are not on benefits to apply for help in installing energy efficiency measures within Copeland,

(L) the Council's plans to introduce additional recycling facilities for the collection of glass, cans and plastic bottles in its major offices be implemented,

(M) specific funding for the implementation of green issues to raise awareness of energy efficiency and climate change be allocated within the council's budget,

(N) the Council consider energy efficiency when implementing any future refurbishment work to Council owned property,

(O) the Council consider the installation of renewable energy features into a Council building as a pilot project in a building when it is due to be refurbished in the near future as an example of energy efficiency,

(P) the Council implement a programme of public awareness of energy efficiency and climate change across the Borough,

(Q) the Council implement an internal programme of staff and member awareness of energy efficiency issues,

(R) Copeland Homes consider the possibility of installing 'smart meters' in a pilot scheme to help encourage better energy use,

- (S) Copeland Homes plan to produce a booklet and information pack containing energy efficiency advice for new and existing tenants be welcomed and implemented,
- (T) the work undertaken by the Eskdale Biomass Project should be promoted as an excellent example of a community led renewable energy scheme and the Council should promote it to other organisations both private and public across the borough,
- (U) the Sustainability (LA21) Forum be reintroduced with a view to sharing resources and costs with Allerdale Borough Council,
- (V) the Energy Saving Trust be requested to help in the development and implementation of a green policy for the Council,
- (W) a target date of 2009 be set for the action in the Council's Corporate Plan to influence home energy conservation plans and tackle fuel poverty,
- (X) the Council explore options for the use of small scale hydropower and other aspects of micro generation, and
- (Y) a report be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six months time on the progress made on these recommendations.

2. EXECUTIVE

The Executive considered these recommendations at the meeting on 12 February 2008 and agreed that

Recommendations (A), (B), (D), (E), (I), (J), (L), (N), (O), (P), (Q), (R), (S), (T) and (V) were agreed by the Executive.

Recommendations (C), (F), (G), (H), (K), (M), (U), (W), (X) and (Y) were not agreed and the Executive decided that these should be considered separately due to their cost and resource implications. No indication was given as to when this would happen.

The Executive Portfolio Holder has been invited to the meeting to answer the committee's questions on the Executive's decision.

List of Appendices

None

List of Background Documents:

None

