

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Councillors J Kane (Chairman); C Whiteside; D Banks; E Brenan; B Dixon; J Prince; Mrs C Watson; A Wonnacott and H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Clarkson; R Salkeld; D Moore; W Southward

Also Present: J Cass, Home Group; T Bell, Business Link; T Cairns, WISE; C Robertson, Copeland Borough Council

Officers: J Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; D Davies, Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy and D James, Member Services Officer

EDE 25/08 Minutes of the Meetings

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2008 be signed by the Deputy Chairman as a correct record subject to Sellafeld Programme Director's title being amended to DR I Hudson.

EDE 26/08 Arrangement of the Agenda

Due to the Head of Development Strategy being delayed it was moved duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That Agenda item 7 – Wind Generated Energy be considered first on the Agenda.

EDE 27/08 Wind Generated Energy

A motion was put to Council on the 13 February that

“Copeland Borough Council wish to support the motion that was passed by Cumbria County Council on Thursday November 20th 2008 in that the County Council has grave concerns that the current targets for onshore wind-generated energy ride rough shod over the capacity of our landscapes and seascapes to satisfactorily accommodate further wind farms. Cumbria's environment is a key asset for economic wellbeing. The County Council believes that a proliferation of wind farms will undermine efforts to address the county's economic problems.

The County Council calls on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to give a commitment to seek to ensure that Government will reduce its over reliance on onshore wind, reduce current wind – related targets and invest, as a matter of urgency, in other low carbon energy generation.”

An amendment to this motion was also put before Council that

“That Copeland Borough Council wish to support the concerns raised in the motion passed by the County Council on Thursday 20 November 2008, and resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the local MP and the county council as follows:

“The Copeland Borough Council calls on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to give a commitment to seek to ensure that Government will reduce its over-reliance on onshore wind, reduce current wind-related targets and invest, as a matter of urgency, in other low carbon energy generation.”

Both the motion and amendment were referred, without discussion, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Economic Development and Enterprise for consideration.

During consideration of this item Members stressed the importance of reaffirming Councils support of the Energy Coast Masterplan and as such an further amendment was moved by Councillor Whiteside duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That the amended motion as moved by Councillor Whiteside that

“Copeland Borough Council wish to support the concerns raised in the motion passed by the County Council on Thursday 20 November 2008, and resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the local MP and the County council as follows:

The Copeland Borough Council calls on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to give a commitment to seek to ensure that Government will reduce its over-reliance on onshore wind, reduce current wind-related targets and invest, as a matter of urgency, in other low carbon energy generation such as tidal power and nuclear power this will reaffirm Councils commitment to a balanced energy policy as detailed in the Energy Coast Masterplan.”

be supported

EDE 28/08 Tackling Worklessness

Consideration was given to a report setting out an overview of the Councils developing framework for tackling worklessness within Copeland. The report also highlighted progress and current activities and the Councils approach and potential priorities.

A presentation was received from J Cass of Home Group on their approach in tackling worklessness, in the Borough. It was noted that worklessness covered a wider range of people from the unemployed to people who have retired prior to reaching the statutory retirement age.

EDE 29/08 Business Development

Members received presentations from: -

- Tom Bell of Business link on the various ways they could assist with New Start Business Support;
- T Cairns of WISE on work being carried out jointly with Allerdale in assisting local people into self employment; and
- C Robertson on the way Copeland Borough Council worked with the partners to assist in the development of all forms of business opportunities for the benefit of the Borough.

EDE 30/08 Work Plan

Consideration was given to the Work Plan for the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the work plan be noted.

The Meeting Closed at 4:45pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....