

## **SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2008**

Present: Councillors Mrs W Metherell, Chairman; Mrs E Eastwood; G Garrity; F Heathcote; J Jackson; J Park and R Pitt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor F Gleaves; K Hitchen; Mrs J Williams, P Watson and G Clements.

Also present: Councillors A Jacob; Mrs Y Clarkson and N Williams. Mr A McKenzie, Sustainability Manager, Cumbria County Council; Mr M Croster and Mr N Pike, Gilbert Gilkes & Gordon Ltd.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

#### **SSC 12/08     Minutes of the Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2008 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **SSC 13/08     Hydropower**

Mr M Croster and Mr N Pike of Gilbert Gilkes & Gordon Ltd., delivered a presentation to the Committee on the history of hydropower and current developments.

Members were advised that hydropower was renewable, well proven, the fuel was free, produced negligible emissions and was the cheapest way of storing electricity.

During the question and answer session that followed, Members enquired about any approval required from the Environment Agency and/or the National Rivers Authority and how long these take to obtain.

An enquiry was made regarding the cost of a community scheme.

The Committee requested regular updates on the use of hydro power in the area.

Mr M Croster and Mr N Pike were thanked for attending the meeting and for their very informative presentation.

**RESOLVED** – That the presentation be received,

**SSC 14/08      Climate Change**

Mr A McKenzie, Sustainability Manager, Cumbria County Council presented to the Committee on the County Council's climate change strategy.

Members were advised that an action plan had been produced with 147 recommendations including Energy, Housing & Building, Health, Natural Environment, Transport, Waste & Water, Leadership, Procurement and Industry & Commerce.

The next stage was to refer the recommendations to CLASB and it was hoped to implement the recommendations in April 2009.

Mr McKenzie was thanked for attending this committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the presentation be received

**SSC 15/08      Haverigg Prison**

Members were updated on Councillor Pitt's report "Prisons and Safer Communities". A number of responses had been received supporting the proposal.

J Reed MP also supported the recommendation and it was suggested that his assistance be accepted in presenting the proposal to the Home Office.

**RESOLVED** – that

- a) the update be received, and
- b) the assistance of J Reed MP be accepted in presenting the proposal to the Home Office.

**SSC 16/08      Work Plan**

Members considered the Committee's Work Plan.

**RESOLVED:** that the Work Plan be received.

The Meeting Closed at 4:05pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....