

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

19 February 2010

Present – Cllr B Regan (Chairman), Cllr J England, Cllr S Wilson, Cllr T Barker, Cllr N Poole, G Popple, C Stapleton, C Matthews, L Webster, N Bennett, J Luty

Apologies –. T Allen, K Booth, M Salmon and P Fijalkowski

19 **MINUTES - Resolved** - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Climate Change Steering Group held on 18 September 2009 be taken as a correct record.

20 **GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE** – Discussion took place on amendments to be made to the group’s Terms of Reference.

It was agreed – That the Terms of Reference be amended (a) to include the primary aim of the Group being to ensure the council meets, or exceeds, its obligations with respect to carbon reduction, (b) that the list of members’ names require that nominated substitutes attend the meetings in the case of absences, and (c) that the list of names include a representative from IT.

21 **SCHOOLS CARBON PROGRAMME** – T Allen had submitted a report on the Schools Carbon Programme. 45% of the council’s CO₂ emissions came from schools, this needed addressing. Schools had delegated budgets and the council needed to work with them on how cost savings could be recycled and put back into the carbon agenda.

Discussion took place on ways of reducing energy consumption in schools. Consideration could be given to renewable energy initiatives, offering incentives rather than penalties, having nominated governors’ responsibility, school league tables, having energy management on the school curriculum.

The Building Schools for the Future scheme, and the Primary Capital Programme were giving consideration to the most viable options in the construction of new schools and refurbishment of others. Smart meters had already been installed in some.

An energy audit was already underway and data was being collected. To date only ten schools had requested to be part of a scheme.

It was agreed – (a) That the Climate Change Steering Group support the development of a special project targeting schools carbon emissions, and (b) that regular progress reports be submitted to the Climate Change Steering Group.

22 **CARBON TRUST STANDARD** – A report was circulated summarising the outcome of the council’s recent assessment against the Carbon Standard. The report prepared by the Carbon Trust failed the Council against all the benchmarks but

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accepted that it had made enormous strides forward over the last year as part of the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.

An Action Plan was appended to the report. It would be useful if specific service targets could be defined, and it was felt that the five year target for the school energy audits was too long. Not meeting targets would incur costs in the Carbon Credits Trading Scheme, and schools should share this cost. It was anticipated that the council would meet targets in the next assessment. Meeting the ISO14001 standard should be a corporate initiative involving all service areas.

It was agreed – (a) That the Group supports the re-establishment of the Environment Team and the re-launch of Energy Wardens, (b) that the three Action Plans of the CRC, Carbon Management and Scrutiny should be co-ordinated into one Plan, and (c) that a progress report on the Action Plan be submitted to the next meeting.

- 23 **POLICY CONTROLLING THE FELLING OF COUNCIL TREES** – A report was circulated proposing an amendment to the council’s tree policy, that for the council itself to fell any of its own trees there had to be a valid reason for removal.

Further consultation was underway, and approval for the amended policy would be sought from full Cabinet in due course.

- 24 **ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRESS TO DATE** – A report was circulated summarising the progress to date, and future proposals, for energy management. Initiatives achieved so far were listed in the report in paragraph 2.2, and Appendix 1 listed the 2009/10 programme of works which were mostly completed. Appendix 2 summarised the planned activity.

It was agreed – (a) That the progress to date and future planned activity on energy management be noted, and (b) that the Group gives consideration to any additional activity it considers important for the Energy Manager to pursue.

- 25 **ENERGY MANAGEMENT TARGETS** – A report was circulated to update Group members on energy management targets.

The report proposed that to meet the set target of a 33% (100,000 tonnes) reduction in the council’s carbon footprint, a detailed programme needed establishment, setting out targets and funding requirements.

It was agreed – (a) That the Group endorses the course of action as set out in Option 1 in the report, (b) that the Energy Manager has a key role in co-ordinating the action, and (c) that progress be reported back to the next Group meeting.

- 26 **COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION CONSOLIDATION OPPORTUNITIES** – A report was circulated updating members on the rationalisation and consolidation opportunities for council buildings. Opportunities arising through Worksmart were listed in the appendix. The Capital release of buildings could be used to fund improvements to retained buildings. It was noted that the rationalisation of buildings could also contribute to reducing CO₂ from commuter travelling.

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It was agreed – (a) That the course of action set out in the appendices be endorsed by the Group, and (b) that the Group receives regular updates in respect of the environmental improvements expected via Worksmart and other building rationalisation initiatives.

- 27 **RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT** – A report was circulated updating members on the recent consultation document on the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Tariffs were summarised in the appendices.

It was agreed – (a) That the Climate Change Steering Group notes the consultation document, and recommends the Chair and Cabinet Member responsible for energy matters sign off the council's response to the consultation document as part of his cabinet portfolio responsibilities, and (b) that the Carbon Programme Board take on the role of coordinating schemes to capitalise on the RHI, Feed In Tariffs, and other external grants to maximise the roll out of renewable heat and energy initiatives across the council's portfolio of buildings.

- 28 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

J Luty informed the meeting that a Fleet handbook was being produced and that CO₂ reduction was to be included and be part of driver training programmes. The council had over 400 fleet vehicles which consumed around one million litres of diesel per annum.

S Piper stated that input from other service areas on how to address carbon reduction in schools would be welcomed, and that the Children and Young People's service would work with governors to get them involved.

C Barwell informed the meeting that the Core Strategy which would be going for Public Examination this year would have an impact on the Climate Change Agenda. Consultants Halcrow had now completed the final draft of the Lincolnshire Lakes Exceptions Test that had identified mitigation solutions regarding flood risk and had proven that development in the urban extension would be safe, and in fact it would improve the situation for the existing Trentside villages in the locality. The final draft was now with the Environment Agency for their approval. The South Humber Bank could become a renewable energy hub for the UK.

- 29 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – 2 pm, 16 April 2010.