

CARBON REDUCTION PLAN 2011-2012 & 2012-2013

**JOINT COMMUNITY, HOUSING & HEALTH,
ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT AND
OPERATIONAL SERVICES, LEISURE, PARKS & PLAY
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE MEETING**

14TH JULY 2011 AT 6:00PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THIS MEETING:

Councillor White was nominated as Chairman for the meeting

PRESENT:

Councillors White (Chairman), Mrs. Boyle, Constable, Mrs. Constable, Cox, Eadie, Mrs. Eagland, Mrs. Flowith, Greatorex, Mrs. Hancocks, Isaacs, Lewin, Leytham, Mosson, Mynott, Salter, A. Smith, Mrs. Stanhope, Warfield, Willis-Croft and Mrs. Woodward.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. Arnold, Awty, Bacon, Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Fisher, Pearce, Smedley, Strachan, Taylor, Thomas, Mrs. Tranter and Walker.

(In accordance with Council Procedure No. 17 Councillors Spruce, Tittley and Wilcox also attended the meeting.)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor White declared a commercial interest as his company sells items used in certain machinery described in the Carbon Reduction Plan.

MINUTES

None, this is a specially called meeting of the three above Overview and Scrutiny Committees and have not taken place before.

DRAFT CARBON REDUCTION PLAN 2011-2012 AND 2012-2013

Members were given an overview of the draft Carbon Reduction Plan by the Director of Operational Services (Ruth Plant) who highlighted the content of the report. A briefing paper and plan had been circulated prior the meeting. Members noted that there was a typographical error in the document (page 20) and accepted that the correct figure for fuel savings is **£12,000** .

A Carbon Reduction Plan had been produced by Officers, the Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Task Group, and the Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Environment Partnership. The Plan sought to start to address the challenge the District faces in responding to climate change, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, increasing energy efficiency, and developing alternative and renewable forms of energy. Members were asked to consider, comment, and approve this first draft after which public consultation would take place leading to final adoption in the Autumn of this year.

Most of the actions in the plan were either low cost, already budgeted for, or only involved Officer time. There were however, serious implications arising from the lack of resources available to progress actions for this agenda going forward.

The Council was now developing its Strategic Plan to cover the period 2012 to 2016. One of its themes would be the Council's commitment to carbon reduction, and working across the district with Parish Councils and Community Groups to reduce the use of non-renewable energy and promote energy saving opportunities.

The Carbon Reduction Task Group chaired by Councillor Marshall has led on this piece of work and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees were reassured that the group had investigated the plan in detail.

Paragraph 3:3 Statements of reasons, in the cover report stated that in 2005-2006 Staffordshire County Council carried out a survey asking local residents about their concerns for the future. The then results showed that climate change was a major concern, second only to terrorism. The Committee felt that priorities had since then changed for people due to the economic climate and keeping that statement in the plan would not necessarily be an accurate portrait of local residents in 2011 -2013.

RESOLVED: (1) That reports and other documentation be proofread prior circulation.

(2) That the foreword of the report include statements from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Wilcox, and the Chairman of the Carbon Reduction Task Group, Councillor Marshall.

(3) That a statement be included detailing the financial implications of the proposal together with a detailed plan of how the proposal will be achieved with limited resources.

(4) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt that the vision statement required some revision.

(5) That statistics used to measure emissions should be "real" and easily translated, with a national figure and a per capita figure alongside the local figure of measurements

(6) That progress to date section included:

- Reference our *Local Development Framework (LDF)* together with LoCaL, WFEG and LIDACC.

That there was a specific paragraph about the correlation between carbon footprints, employment, housing and other economic activity.

- A wider context and acknowledgment that ensuring growth in the District is important but that this should be as eco-friendly as possible.

(7) That the Carbon reduction Plan needs to be dynamic to encourage as many people as possible to read it.

(The Meeting Closed at 18.50)

CHAIRMAN