



ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY REVIEW 2011 - 2021

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the review of the Environment Strategy. A copy of the report, marked 'D', is filed with these minutes.

The Director explained that the Strategy had been submitted to the Commission in order that its views could be fed into the Cabinet meeting on 13 September, prior to approval by the full County Council at its meeting on 28 September.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the Cabinet Lead Member for Climate Change, Mr. P. C. Osborne CC, who was attending to respond to any questions the Commission had on the Strategy.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:

- There was some crossover between the Strategy and the Carbon Management Plan, which was expected to be debated by the Commission in November. The proposed revised strategy set a target of 10% of energy use from renewable energy sources;
- The Government was currently consulting on how the Carbon Reduction Commitment should apply to schools and academies. It was hoped, as the school system moved toward an academy model, that the Council's obligation to pay the Carbon Reduction Commitment would not extend to academies;
- Reduction in street lighting was expected to make a significant impact in achieving the 30% carbon saving target, despite the increase in adopted streets. In considering the reduction in the use of street lighting, it was of crucial importance to work with local communities and to identify their needs;
- The Office Accommodation Strategy would ensure a significant improvement in the overall energy efficiency of the Council's corporate accommodation;

- There were currently 160 “Green Champions” in the Council. These were members of staff who had volunteered to assist in the move towards ensuring greener working practices;
- Energy efficiency remained the highest priority for the Council in the present economic climate. It was hoped that, as the economic climate improved, there would be a move toward procuring effective renewable energy generation measures as well, such as photovoltaic and solar panels at County Council building, including County Hall;
- It was highlighted that the Council’s recycling and Household Waste site at Melton was lit through the night for security reasons, though it was questioned whether use of motion sensor infrared lighting would assist in improving energy efficiency;

RESOLVED:

That the progress made in reviewing the Environment Strategy be noted and that comments of the Commission, as outlined above, be reported to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 September.