

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee
Low Carbon Economy: Policy Review recommendations 10/11

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	The Council consider the development of a revised Carbon Plan to run from 2012 to 2020 in order to identify projects and policies that will help meet its targets for reductions in carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder engagement with streetlighting, fleet, business travel and energy colleagues to scope project ideas to inform the revised Carbon Plan – Summer 2011 - Carbon and financial evaluation of proposed revised Carbon Plan projects undertaken and draft revised Carbon Plan ready – December 2011 - Final draft of revised Carbon Plan, which will compliment CRC and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requirements, ready for adoption – March 2012 	Andrew Perkin	Adopted 8 year Carbon Plan by 31 March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4th year progress report of the first 5 year Carbon Plan (2006/7 – 2011/12) will be available Autumn 2011, which will show whether the first Carbon Plan is on target to meet it's 10% reduction target - Final progress report on the first Carbon Plan will be available Autumn 2012 and will show whether the initial 10% reduction target has been met - Capital Strategy Group agreed to a 10% (£300,000) energy consumption reduction target from council buildings during 2011/12 - Through its Sustainability Policy, the council has already committed to a 30% reduction target by 2020, the revised Carbon Plan will set out how this can be achieved
(b)	The Council considers the introduction of staff champions to lead on reductions in carbon emissions in buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work has already commenced with Corporate Communications to establish Sustainability Champions or "Communities of Interest". These employees will 	Andrew Perkin	Sustainability Board and Communities of Interest proposal to be	A proposal for the Communities of Interest and a Sustainability Board as per the recommendation of the Sustainability Policy has been made and is currently

		<p>help raise awareness to their colleagues on a range of sustainability issues, including for example, carbon management, waste and sustainable procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Communications are developing a brief for the Sustainability Communities of Interest, similar to that of the Change / Communication Champions. Once agreed, the group will be promoted and employees will be asked to nominate themselves or colleagues to join the Community of Interest - Training will be needed to provide the Communities of Interest with all relevant information needed to help champion sustainability priorities across the council. This will coincide with a council wide sustainability e-learning module which is currently being developed 		<p>agreed by Autumn 2011</p> <p>Communities of Interest in place, training carried out and bulletin board is live – March 2012</p>	<p>awaiting Head of Service approval</p>
(c)	<p>The Council undertake further feasibility work in order to identify those Council buildings that are most suitable for the installation of solar PV</p>	<p>Currently awaiting the finalisation of the Property Rationalisation project to identify which council buildings will remain to deliver council services in the future. Once the final property portfolio is known, buildings will be assessed to ascertain their feasibility for solar PV</p>	<p>Andrew Atkinson, Andrew Perkin</p>	<p>March 2012 (information to inform revised Carbon Plan)</p>	<p>The installation of PV at the Civic (5.2kW) and Biddick and St Roberts Schools (approx 30kW each) are complete. This will be followed by an installation at Washington School (currently being designed).</p>

(d)	The Council investigate the options for the installation of solar PV and other renewable electricity, whether this be through rent a roof / land rental or through an invest to save mechanism to benefit from Feed in Tariff (FIT) income	Once the feasibility of solar PV has been carried out on appropriate council property, a business case showing financial modelling will be needed to inform the best approach through which to install solar PV on council buildings	Andrew Atkinson	March 2012 (to inform revised Carbon Plan)	The Energy Conservation Team are currently looking at this and exploring not-for-profit based finance mechanisms
(e)	The Council provides an updated report on the implications of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), once further details become known	The Energy Conservation Team to prepare an updated report on RHI now that it has been announced	Andrew Atkinson	December 2011	Government announced details of RHI on 10 March 2011
(f)	The Council is undertakes feasibility work to assess the potential for district heating networks and explore funding opportunities that help support the delivery of the city's Economic Masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council alongside partner organisations has secured European Regional Development Fund grant and other sources of funding to deliver a Low Carbon Social Housing Demonstration project which will target up to 100 hard-to-treat properties and develop the capacity of SMEs to install low carbon technologies - The Council is a partner in a new Intelligent Energy Europe Programme project, led by EUROCITIES, which started on 1 June 2011. The project aims to deliver improvements in the implementation of sustainable energy policies with a focus on urban planning, renewable energy sources and low carbon transport - Currently seeking funding to look at the feasibility of district heating 	James Garland, Catherine Pope, Andrew Perkin, Les Clark	Ongoing	District Heating potential is a key action of Sunderland's Covenant of Mayor's SEAP.

(h)	The Committee receive a further report on, and consult with, small businesses in the city involved in the renewable energy industry	A mapping exercise needs to be undertaken to ascertain which Sunderland companies are involved in the production of and supply of renewable energy. In part, this will be carried out in a baselining survey which is to be conducted as part of the Low Carbon City campaign detailed in recommendation 'i', below	Janet Snaith	From Autumn 2011	Using the Micro-generation Certification Scheme (MCS) website, local suppliers and installers of solar PV have been identified to provide quotations to 3 Sunderland schools recently
(i)	The Council develop closer working relationships with Sunderland University with regards to the low carbon economy, skills and training opportunities	<p>Ensure that the HE / FE sectors are fully integrated into the delivery of the Economic Masterplan, as this relates to the skills needs of employers engaged in the low carbon economy</p> <p>In practical terms, this will mean sharing knowledge of upcoming skills requirements with both the University and relevant colleges (for example, where there are significant investment projects in the pipeline)</p>	Janet Snaith	Over the year there will be continuing discussions taking place in order to develop relationship	<p>The University of Sunderland is already playing a key role in relation to the software development sector, and is now involved in the working group looking at the emerging offshore wind sector</p> <p>In addition to the significant research on ultra low carbon vehicles undertaken by AMAP, the University offers an MSc in Low Carbon Vehicle Technology for engineers in the sector (other vocational training for the automotive sector is led by Gateshead College)</p> <p>The University also offers a BEng (Hons) degree in Renewable Energy Engineering. This is a 3-4 year sandwich course, providing in-depth skills to engineers in the renewable energy sector</p>

(j)	That the Council explore the opportunities for future joint working with NAREC	NAREC have visited relevant council officers to present opportunities for future partnership working	Janet Snaith	Discussions completed and Narec will be invited to procure for work as appropriate	NAREC will be kept informed of, and invited to tender for any potential work in future such as the Energy Routemap detailed in item 'f' above
(k)	That the Council ensure that appropriate informal consultation is undertaken with the public at the pre-application stage and that the statutory publicity and consultation arrangements are followed when considering formal applications for the installation of renewable sources of energy	Within the existing PPS 22 and the council's Statement of Community Involvement, pre-application community consultation although not obligatory is recognised as best practice and is something the Planning and Environment Service actively encourages. Working with developers we will encourage pre-application consultation	Keith Lowes	On-going part of the consultation process	Currently working with Partnership for Renewables (PfR) at 2 council owned sites looking at the option to install single 2.5MW turbines. PfR will be undertaking extensive pre-application community consultation
(l)	The Committee receive a future report on the Low Carbon Marketing and Communication Strategy	<p>During 2009, the Low Carbon City Campaign engaged with 22 local organisations encouraging them to commit to at least a 10% carbon reduction target within 10 years or less. This campaign is to continue and support Aim 2 of the Economic Masterplan</p> <p>Currently working with Corporate Communications on a communications plan and survey to engage with large businesses across the city aiming to launch the campaign in the Autumn once the Inward Investment Marketing Strategy has been launched by Corporate Communications</p>	Deborah Lewin / Janet Snaith	2 year campaign from Autumn 2011 – 2013	Successful 12 month campaign has previously engaged 22 businesses and 12 “champions” across the city. All champions have already expressed their commitment to the continuation of the campaign

		<p>Inward Investment Marketing Strategy to launch during 2011/12. Marketing the city as a destination for inward investment linked to the low carbon economy, focussing upon the target sectors of ultra low carbon vehicles; offshore wind and software development</p> <p>Measures will include the production of sector-specific brochures, organising and attending relevant events, undertaking targeted advertising etc., with the aim of positioning Sunderland as a national hub for the target sectors</p>		<p>Ongoing – to be completed during 2011/12</p>	<p>The software development strand of this priority has been pursued through the Software City initiative, with a number of inward investment successes to date</p> <p>A new post is being created within the Business Investment Team to take forward the other strands</p>
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