

# **ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

12 SEPTEMBER 2011

## **LOW CARBON VEHICLES – DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN SUNDERLAND POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: APPROACH TO THE REVIEW**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Strategic Priority: SP5 - Attractive and Inclusive City**

**Corporate Priorities: CIO1 – Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4 –  
Improving Partnership Working To Deliver ‘One City’**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from members in relation to the evidence gathering activities for the Scrutiny Committee’s policy review for 2011/12 into Low Carbon Vehicles - Delivery of Public Services.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Following discussions at the recent Scrutiny Conference in May 2011, the Committee considered the possibility of a study into low carbon vehicles at its meeting of 13 June 2011. An initial scoping document and scene setting presentation was presented to the Committee on 25 July 2011.
- 2.2 Following discussions at that meeting this report adds structure to the review and provides a timeline for evidence gathering along with a number of potential areas to explore.

#### **3. Aim of the Scrutiny Policy Review**

- 3.1 To consider the city’s current and future plans for the utilisation of low carbon vehicles in the delivery of public services.

#### **4. Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Policy Review**

- 4.1 The Terms of Reference for the policy review are:-
  - (a) To examine the role and responsibilities of the local authority with regard to climate change and energy;
  - (b) To consider national and European policy in regard to the use of low carbon transport in the delivery of services;
  - (c) To investigate the progress made to date and future plans in the council and across partners in regard to the introduction of low carbon vehicles to deliver public services;

- (d) To explore the financial and non-financial future implications of the increased use of low carbon vehicles in the delivery of council services;
- (e) To consider appropriate targets for the introduction of electric vehicles into the council's fleet.
- (f) To consider the extent of the council's role as a leader in the use of low carbon vehicles to deliver public services in the city; and
- (g) To consider to what extent future technologies will enable the council and partners to increase the use of low carbon vehicles.

## **5. Gathering the Evidence**

5.1 Research activities over the coming months will be co-ordinated by this Committee's Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the relevant directorate staff. Every effort will be made to involve Members in the research. Although alternative opportunities may present themselves during the review, data collection techniques may include a combination of the following:

- Desktop research
- Evidence presented by key stakeholders
- Site visits

5.2 The review will gather evidence from a variety of sources. The main evidence will come from information provided by council officers and external partners and are likely to include, though not exhaustive, the following:

- (a) Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holders;
- (b) Head of Streetscene;
- (c) Nexus;
- (d) Smiths Electric Vehicles;
- (e) Sunderland University;
- (f) North East Purchasing Organisation;
- (g) Nissan;
- (h) Local MPs; and
- (i) Residents.

## **6. Project Plan**

6.1 Attached for Members information is an illustration of the agreed approach (**Appendix A**) to the policy review which outlines the various activities and

evidence gathering that will be undertaken throughout the review process. The plan forms the basis of the review process and allows members to see the range of activities and methodologies to be employed during the evidence gathering stage. The plan is subject to amendment and throughout the review process members will be provided with an up-to-date plan reflecting any changes.

- 6.2 Members of the Scrutiny Committee will be invited to attend the activities that are to be undertaken as part of the policy review and will be kept informed of all activities as and when they are arranged.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 That Members of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee discuss and agree the proposed plan for the policy review.

## **8. Background Papers**

- Minutes of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee; 13 June; 25 July 2011