

# PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 January  
2011

## LOW CARBON ECONOMY - POLICY REVIEW 2010/11: VEHICLES

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP: PROSPEROUS CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'.

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to receive a presentation from Janet Snaith, Head of City Business and Investment Team on the development of the vehicle sector of the low carbon economy in Sunderland.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 On 18 June 2009, the Committee agreed to undertake a policy review into the development of a Low Carbon Economy in Sunderland.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 14 July, the Committee agreed the following terms of reference:-
  - (a) To gain an understanding of what we mean by the term 'low carbon economy';
  - (b) To consider the difference between the concepts of low carbon *business* and a low carbon *place*;
  - (b) To investigate the land and infrastructure requirements of a low carbon city;
  - (c) To consider the potential skills requirements of a low carbon economy and the measures that can be taken to ensure that the City's working population are equipped to meet the demand;
  - (e) To consider the role of the Council in providing community leadership and championing the low carbon economy;
  - (f) To consider how best to market the City in order to attract new low carbon industries and consider the promotion of flagship schemes;

(g) To consider how best to involve individuals in making low carbon choices, for example, through energy conservation or generation measures;

(h) To look at the action being taken by the City as a whole (businesses and residents) and the work being done to encourage businesses and residents to sign up to the low carbon agenda;

(i) To consider the role of the FE / HE sector in providing research into the development of low carbon industries and meeting the likely skills demands. How can we make courses more attractive to young people and ensure that their skills are transferable?

(j) To map those low carbon businesses already in the city to provide a benchmark for moving forward;

(k) To look at the work being done in schools and other Council buildings to reduce carbon emissions.

2.3 As part of the review, Janet Snaith has been invited to the meeting to discuss the potential of the vehicle sector as part of the low carbon economy. This will cover the following themes:-

#### **Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles**

- Background (Economic Masterplan)
- Electric Vehicles Production (Tanfield Group)
- Nissan Battery Plant
- Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle
- Research & Development (Test Track)
- Sector Support and Locations
- Skills (Green Collar Training)
- Infrastructure (Plugged in Places)
- Issues (Resources and Market Potential)

2.4 Arrangements are currently being made for a visit to the Nissan site in order to view the facilities.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the information provided and the comments of members be included as part of the Committees policy review.

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