

# **PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2011

## **LOW CARBON PLACE TASK AND FINISH GROUP, WORK PROGRAMME 2010-11**

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

#### **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Low Carbon Place task and finish group during the 2010-11 Council year.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 At the Committees meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010, it was agreed that a core task and finish group would be established to investigate the Low Carbon Place aspect of the Policy Review.
- 2.2 Councillors Bell, Cuthbert, P Gibson, Mordey, Snowdon and A Wright were nominated to serve on the group. It was agreed that a work programme would be developed and included on the main Committee agenda. All Members of the Committee are able to attend any evidence gathering sessions of interest.

#### **3. Progress update**

- 3.1 Members completed a visit to Narec on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Narec is the national centre for the UK, dedicated to advancing the development, demonstration, deployment and grid integration of renewable energy and low carbon generation technologies. Narec is located in Blyth.
- 3.2 A presentation was given to Members regarding the work of Narec and Members were given a guided tour around the site, visiting a house that had been retrofitted which was used as a training centre. They also visited the photovoltaic technology centre where Members observed a range of photovoltaic modules with coloured solar cells for improved aesthetics in and on buildings, testing facilities and the solar charging points for electric cars which are the Narec site.
- 3.3 The work programme is included as Appendix A of this report.

3.1 This is a flexible document and can be added to or amended throughout the course of the year.

#### **4 Recommendation**

4.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and progress to date.

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