

**LOW CARBON ECONOMY POLICY REVIEW – EVIDENCE GATHERING**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Strategic Priorities: SP1 Prosperous City**

**Corporate Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'.**

**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee with information on the potential skills requirements of a low carbon economy;
- 1.2 To receive an update from Nexus on the work going on to reduce carbon emissions from the regions public transport operators.

**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 As part of review, the Committee agreed to consider the potential skills requirements of a low carbon economy and the measures being taken to ensure that the City's working population are equipped to meet these demands.
- 2.3 The Committee also agreed to look at the action being taken to encourage public transport operators to reduce the level of their carbon emissions.

**3. Current Position**

*Skills*

- 3.1 Mick Brophy MD Business, Innovation and Development at Gateshead College will attend the meeting to discuss the work of the Gateshead College's Skills Academy for Automotive Manufacturing.
- 3.2 Gateshead College is developing the Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing, Productivity & Innovation on the Nissan site. When it is completed in 2011, this will be the UK's first low carbon training centre.
- 3.3 The University of Sunderland has introduced an MSc in Low Carbon Vehicle Technology - the first qualification of its kind in the UK. The programme has been designed in consultation with the industry and is

for people already employed in the sector. Adrian Smith from the University has been invited to the meeting in order to provide further details.

- 3.4 Gary Cumisky, Head of Construction at City of Sunderland College has will also be in attendance in order to speak about the work going on at the College.

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*Nexus*

- 3.5 Finally, Helen Matthews, Head of Business Development at NEXUS will update the Committee the initiatives being taken to reduce the level of carbon emissions from public transport operating in the region.

#### **4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 That the report be received and the information incorporated into the policy review.

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