



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JUNE 2012 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs P. Cook, K. Dawson, Mrs D. Ellis, C. Elsbury, D. Havard, K. James, C.P. Mann,
J.A. Pritchard.

Together with:

N. Liversuch (Manager Countryside & Landscape Services), P. Cooke (Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment), P. Rossiter (Energy and Water Officer), S. Martin (Energy Officer), T. Evans (Education for Sustainable Development Officer), K. Silcox (RDP Sustainable Energy Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor K. James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development was elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Councillor James took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor C.P. Mann was elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

Members placed on record their appreciation of the contribution made to the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel over the years by the previous Vice Chairman, Councillor H.A. Andrews, Leader of the Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Adams, Mrs A. Blackman and S. Kent; Mr A. O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property) and M. Williams (Building Consultancy Manager).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on 11th April 2012 (minute nos. 1-6; page nos. 1-3) were approved and signed as a correct record.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012

Following a welcome and introductions, the Chairman invited Paul Cooke, Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment, to present the Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team Annual Report 2011/2012 to the Panel. The presentation was divided into four areas viz. Sustainable Council; Education for Sustainable Development; The Living Environment and the Rural Development Programme, Sustainable Energy.

The Council has a long-term commitment to sustainable development (SD) and agreed its first SD Policy in 1997. It has successively built on this foundation culminating in the publication in 2008 of its Sustainable Development Strategy, Living Better, Using Less, which sets out the approach that the Authority is taking to SD and its vision for a sustainable county borough. Its objectives are "To promote longer healthier lives"; To promote fulfilled and satisfied lives" and "To consume less resources". The complex interaction of these three objectives is at the heart of what the strategy aims to achieve and can be expressed by the following equation, which calculates the resource efficiency with which long, healthy and satisfied lives are delivered:

$$\text{Living better, using less} = \frac{\text{Long, Healthy Lives} \times \text{Satisfied Lives}}{\text{Resources Consumed}}$$

$$\text{Calculated as:} \quad \frac{\text{Life expectancy} \times \text{Life satisfaction}}{\text{Ecological Footprint}}$$

The Annual Report highlights the work of the SD & LE Team including the work in partnership with the Sustainable Development Core Group, the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (SDAP) and the Living Environment Partnership. The Report is structured to reflect the four areas of work of the Team i.e. Sustainable Council; Education for Sustainable Development; The Living Environment and Rural Development - Sustainable Energy.

In July 2011 the Authority signed the Welsh Government's SD Charter, the aim of which is to contribute to making Wales a sustainable nation by encouraging organisations to work with Welsh Government to deliver sustainable development objectives. Peter Davies, Climate Change Commissioner for Wales and Sustainable Futures Commissioner for Wales, attended the June meeting of SDAP. As part of his visit he went on a brief projects tour, which included a visit to Greenhill Primary School, which has achieved an Energy Performance Certificate rating score of A+, which no other school in the UK has yet achieved.

In December 2011 the Authority welcomed delegates from the National Planning Division of Japan who were keen to find out more about Caerphilly's sustainability programme, having been impressed with what they had read about it online.

The sustainable Caerphilly website encourages people to live a more sustainable lifestyle by Living Better and Using Less. The website has four sections focusing on sustainable living, sustainable schools, sustainable council and sustainable businesses and features an online questionnaire the Caerphilly Sustainable Index, which allows people to find out how sustainable they are. The intranet site has been designed to encourage staff to live and work more sustainably and also promotes the Authority's salary sacrifice schemes, which include "cycle to work" and "green car" schemes.

The Green Team at Pontllanfraith has continued to demonstrate the benefits to the Green Team approach, particularly in communicating and engaging with staff on sustainability issues.

Travel and transport account for 16% of the UK's emission of CO₂. The SDAP has identified travel and transport as a key sustainability issue for the Authority to address. The SD & LE Team have been working with Sewta over the past few years to incorporate various sustainable transport initiatives into the Authority. As part of this work the Council was awarded the Welsh Government backed All Wales Travel Plan Award at Gold Level, a scheme introduced to recognise best practice and excellent commitment to travel planning.

Twelve events promoting sustainable travel and highlighting support and initiatives available to staff to enable them to travel more sustainably were run in 2011/12. A Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme was launched in June 2010 to encourage staff to cycle to work. To date 221 employees have signed up to the scheme.

The SD & LE Team continues to promote the car share scheme. A total of 42 dedicated car share spaces have been designated at the six main sites and there are 293 members of staff registered on the car share scheme. The Council has also recently introduced a Salary Sacrifice Car Scheme as part of a government sponsored initiative to provide a leasing arrangement for low emission cars. In 2011/12, 123 vehicles were ordered via the scheme. The Team has also worked closely with Community Wardens to provide advice and guidance on sustainable transport, cycles and cycle equipment to support their move to deliver their service by pushbike instead of their traditional minibus.

The CCBC Pedometer Challenge was held from 30th January 2012 to 2nd March 2012. The challenge was a huge success attracting 81 teams and 54 individuals. It is intended to run an annual challenge in order to continue to raise awareness and understanding of the health benefits associated with walking.

A key element of the work of the SD & LE Team is to support individual services within the Authority to address sustainability issues. Work with the Strategic & Development Plan Team highlighted the need for a short course for planning professional practitioners to provide them with practical training in order to ensure that development control decisions are consistent with national and international climate change obligations, including contributions to renewable energy targets and aspirations. The training, which was attended by 30 officers from within the Planning Division built on the existing skills of professional staff and was a hands on practical training session.

The SD & LE Team continues to work closely with ICT Services, the Energy Management Team and the Carbon Reduction Group on ICT related initiatives. The deployment of multi function printers to consolidate local printers, scanners and fax machines onto single devices is progressing well and enables officers to accurately monitor printing and copying and to set criteria to limit the impact on the environment. ICT also continues to monitor the power management schemes introduced onto our PC's and laptops in December 2009. During 2011/12 PCs were shut down on over 43,000 occasions. Caerphilly is also working with the Welsh Government on a print strategy for the Welsh public sector. As part of this work a product called Preton Saver has been tested, which manipulates printed output to reduce the amount of toner used as part of the printing process.

The Authority developed a long term carbon reduction strategy in 2009. It is anticipated that the target of a 45% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2019 will be met by good housekeeping (10%); invest to save energy efficiency projects (20%); good design and asset management (10%) and renewable energy (5%). During the year, 27 energy audits were completed and presented to building managers.

In September 2004 the Authority established "Local Authority Energy Fund" (LAEF) in partnership with the Carbon Trust. The Authority invested £500,000, which was matched to £300,000 from the Carbon Trust to develop a rolling programme of projects. Savings generated by the scheme are invested into new projects. In 2011/12 the LAEF scheme implemented 18 projects totalling £211,665 and saved 230 tonnes of carbon.

Photovoltaic (PV) schemes are being implemented at Ty Penallta, Trinity Fields, Ysgol Ifor Bach and St James Primary to a combined value of £217,000. This is from additional funding to the LAEF funding. Greenhill Primary School has become the first A+ rated school in the UK and is likely to become the first BREEAM "outstanding" school in the UK.

CCBC's 51% for re-use, recycling or composting for 2010/11 and 227.3kg of residual waste per person ranked the Council a respectable 17th out of the 202 local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales. This had risen to 57% in the first half of 2011-12.

Education for Sustainable Development has been a priority within the Authority since October 2004 when a dedicated ESD Officer was appointed to drive forward the agenda in the county borough. Of the 90 schools with an award, these are broken down into 14 Bronze awards, 23 Silver awards and 53 Green Flag awards. Fifty eight per cent of the county borough's schools now hold the Eco School green flag award and St Gwladys School, Bargoed achieved the coveted Eco Schools Platinum Award in March 2012, the first school in the county borough to achieve this award. Twenty four schools in the county borough are also currently working towards the Fairtrade Schools Scheme as part of their Eco Schools programme. As part of the process of raising awareness and understanding of ESGC in schools the SD & LE Team has developed the Green Grin-o-Meter, a children's version of the Caerphilly Sustainability Index which enables young people to calculate their own sustainability score.

In January 2009 the SD Team and United Welsh Housing Association (UWHA) developed the concept and proposal for the Solar Schools project and secured Heads of the Valleys funding to install solar photovoltaic panels on nine schools in the HoV area plus an additional £20,000 to develop educational resources to support the project and maximise the educational benefits. The Caerphilly Solar Schools Education Resource Pack was launched in May 2011 and has been distributed to every school in the county borough.

The SD & LE Team also support Young Enterprise, which is the UK's largest business and enterprise education charity. The Team sponsored the award for the environment category in 2011/12, which was won by year 10 pupils from Pontllanfraith Comprehensive who developed a range of eco-friendly products including eco shopper bags and environmentally friendly stationery.

The SD & LE Team coordinates the Living Environment Partnership (LEP), one of the four thematic partnerships of Caerphilly's Community Strategy. There are three working groups, which were set up in 2008 based on addressing the original 7 objectives under the Living Environment Theme of the Community Strategy - the Caerphilly Environment Quality (CEQ) Group, the Great Outdoors Group and the Climate Change Group. The CEQ Group was successful in securing £25,000 funding from the Authority's Community Assets Fund for the Group to undertake innovative priority projects during 2011/12. The Great Outdoors, or GO Group, aims to increase the safe and responsible use of the county borough's countryside and open spaces in order to facilitate healthier lifestyles and citizen well-being, whilst ensuring the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The Climate Change Working Group was set up to look at ways in which the partnership could help improve the efficiency of local natural resource consumption to mitigate the local causes of climate change and identify the steps we need to take to adapt to the local effects of climate change.

In 2011 two RDP Sustainable Energy Officers were appointed under axis 4 of the plan. Their main role is to engage with farm households and rural businesses to reduce energy use and promote the uptake of renewable energy. The RDP Sustainable Energy Team provide a three tiered system of support with rural businesses i.e. Level 1 - Information and Advice; Level 2 -

Surveys and Support and Level 3 - Mentoring Support/Exemplars. The third tier of support involves detailed support on specific projects from the Sustainable Energy Officers. The aim of the development of exemplar projects is to demonstrate good practice and to showcase sustainable energy projects. The first Exemplar represents an opportunity to showcase renewal energy techniques in a domestic farmhouse located within a completely off grid setting near Manmoel. The second Exemplar aims to develop micro hydro schemes within the county borough. The aim of phase 1 of the study was to carry out a high level screening of the area to assess the viability for low and high head hydro developments. Following the study five priority sites were shortlisted for preliminary feasibility studies to assess the potential in more detail.

The Chairman thanked Paul for his very informative presentation and discussion took place on the content and issues raised. It was noted that the SD & LE Team had secured an additional £161,641 to increase the 2011/12 budget from £31,800 to £193,441.

The Panel endorsed the report and noted the achievements against the priorities set for 2011/2012.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2012.

CHAIRMAN