



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
ON THURSDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2014 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor K. James - Chairman
Councillor D. Havard - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, C. Elsbury, C.P. Mann, J.A. Pritchard.

Together with:

P. Cooke (Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment),
P. Rossiter (Energy and Water Officer), S. Martin (Energy Officer), T. Evans (ESD Officer),
M. Phillips (RDP Sustainable Energy Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies had been received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on 26th September 2013 (minute nos. 1-5; page nos. 1-4) were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 - PROPOSED FORMAT

The Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment, presented the report, which sought the Panel's approval to amend the current Sustainable Development and Living Environment (SD & LE) Team Annual Report format to become a Corporate Sustainable Development Annual Report from 2013/14.

Welsh Government had recently confirmed that a "Future Generations Bill" would be introduced in the summer 2014. This will require Local Authorities to formally report on their approach to sustainable development and on the progress they are making to become more

sustainable. It was therefore proposed that for 2013/14 the SD Team Annual Report be replaced by an Authority wide Sustainable Development Report that pulls together information from across the Authority as a first step towards becoming a report on the sustainability performance of the whole Authority.

The WLGA have undertaken a lot of work as part of its Sustainable Development Framework programme and have suggested that the report be structured around a Local Authority's identified priorities. Officers recommended therefore that the 7 priority areas listed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be used to provide the overall structure for the CCBC Sustainable Development Annual Report.

It was anticipated that a simple set of indicators will be developed based around the 7 priority areas. The table in paragraph 4.5 of the report includes examples of potential indicators, two of which have historically been measured by staff surveys, which would need to be carried out every two years.

In terms of the proposed indicators, the Energy and Water Officer advised that there was no historical data available in terms of the proposed water consumption indicator in Priority Area 4 - sustainable use of natural resources. He envisaged that it would be difficult to obtain the information for many buildings and queried whether it would be premature to include the indicator at present. The Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment advised that it was likely that the Welsh Government guidance would require water consumption to be included in the list of indicators and suggested that it be included as a pilot this year. Officers agreed to discuss this matter further and to report back to a future meeting of the Panel.

The Sustainable Development Advisory Panel endorsed the proposal to amend the current Sustainable Development and Living Environment (SD & LE) Team Annual Report to become a Corporate Sustainable Development Annual Report from 2013/14.

5. EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP - UPDATE ON KEY PROJECTS

The Panel received an update on some of the key Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC).

The Eco Early Years Award Scheme was developed to support early years/pre school settings working on environmental and sustainable projects. The award scheme has three levels, a bronze award, silver award and gold award. It is anticipated that each award level will take around 12 months to achieve although this will depend on the individual setting.

The ESDGC Governors Toolkit was developed as a partnership project with Bridgend CBC's ESD Officer, Governors Wales and Governor Support Units and governors from various authorities throughout Wales. The toolkit was developed to provide guidance to school governors to enable them to support their schools on ESDGC. The Toolkit was launched in 2013 at the Association of Directors of Education in Wales Governor Support Meeting and has been shared with the CCBC and BCBC Governor Support Units to circulate to all school governors. It can be downloaded from the Sustainable Caerphilly Website and from the Governors Wales Website. It is currently being rolled out across Wales via the All Wales ESDGC Officers Network.

The ESDGC Youth Award Scheme was also developed as a partnership project with Bridgend County Council in 2012. Five youth clubs in the Caerphilly County Borough have been working towards the ESDGC Award Scheme, which has three levels i.e. the bronze leaf, the silver twig and the gold tree. To date one youth club has achieved the silver twig award and is working towards the next stage. The other four groups have assessments planned for the spring term to determine which award level they have achieved.

It was noted that 61 (67%) schools in the County Borough have achieved the Eco School Green Flag award to date. Out of these, 19 have achieved their second green flag, 18 their 3rd green flag and 10 have achieved the platinum award (4th green flag). Out of the remaining schools in the County Borough, 22 hold the eco school silver award and 7 the bronze award. To celebrate these achievements an Eco School Celebration Event is being held on 2nd April 2014 at Bedwas High School, the first secondary school in the County Borough to achieve the platinum award.

The Global Games Resource has been developed to support schools incorporating global citizenship into the curriculum. The resource is aimed at primary schools and secondary schools. There are 22 games in the resource detailed by continent and then by country. Each section includes information on the location, population, climate, environmental issues, wildlife, natural resources, cultures and traditions. A Global Games Resource workshop was held with the Junior Forum to ensure the games selected were appropriate for the targeted age range and interesting/fun to play. The resource will be launched in February 2014.

£71,000 has been secured to install solar photovoltaic systems on the remaining schools in the Heads of the Valleys area as part of phase 2 of the project. The work should be completed by March 2014.

The All Wales ESDGC Officers Network is working together to produce a set of documents for different year groups with suggested activities for each of the elements in the Literacy and Numeracy Framework within their curriculum planning and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching.

The Chair thanked the ESD Officer for her informative presentation and commented on the amount of good work being undertaken in the Education for Sustainable Development area. The Vice Chair expressed a particular interest in the ESDGC Governors Toolkit and the possibility of the ESD Officer addressing a meeting of the Governors' Association in connection with this was discussed.

Clarification was sought on the process that schools have to pursue in order to achieve and retain the platinum award. Members were advised that whilst there is no formal assessment, monitoring and spot checks are carried out to ensure the schools are maintaining their good work.

The Sustainable Development Advisory Panel noted the success of some of the key ESDGC projects and congratulated officers on their achievements.

6. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WATER SOLUTION TO AN "OFF GRID" NEW BUILD FARMHOUSE AT MAES YR ONN, MANMOEL

A DVD, which had been produced to promote the partnership project that has delivered a renewable energy and water solution in an "off grid" setting at Manmoel, was shown to the Panel.

The Maes yr Onn project is part of the high level exemplar programme, which aims to demonstrate how sustainable design and use can lead to high quality projects that can also enhance quality of life. CCBC's RDP Sustainable Energy Team developed a partnership with the Building Research Establishment and utility provider SSE to design and deliver a modern farmhouse and family home that resolves the challenges of an off grid location. A launch was held on 6th June 2013 with the Minister for Natural Resources and Food to celebrate the delivery of this exemplar project, which recently won the top prize at the RTPPI Wales Planning Awards 2013 and has also been put forward for the UK Awards.

Members congratulated all those involved in the project and asked whether they could receive regular progress reports to include details of energy and water consumption. Officers confirmed that the project is being closely monitored and that there would be reports back to the Panel in due course.

SSE's Contracting Division installed all the power, heating and water supply technologies, which includes solar photovoltaic panels, a biomass boiler, rainwater harvesting, a battery bank, thermal storage and skirting heating. Twenty one solar panels have been installed on the south facing roof pitch with an installed capacity of 3.88kwp. The system provides general power throughout the day and any surplus is stored in an off grid battery bank and drawn on in hours of darkness. If the battery charge drops below 40% a small diesel generator takes over to provide the necessary power.

During discussion on the technologies installed, Members were advised that the estimated lifespan of the battery pack is 7-10 years and the cost to replace £5,000. As the photovoltaic system is approved through the Government's Feed in Tariff Scheme the family will be paid for the energy generated from the system therefore providing them with an additional income source.

A rainwater harvesting system has been installed which includes potable water for drinking. Rainwater is collected from the roof of the house and stored in a 5500 litre tank located in the basement. The water is then filtered and treated with UV light to sterilize bacteria and then pumped around the house to feed into the two bathrooms, kitchen and utility area.

The Sustainable Development Advisory Panel noted the achievements of the RDP supported project and congratulated all those involved. It was agreed that updates would be presented to the Panel on a regular basis.

Following consideration of the above item Members requested that a progress report on Greenhill Primary School be presented to a future meeting together with a report on the frequency of occurrence and impact of solar flares.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2014.

CHAIRMAN