



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON THURSDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs P. Cook, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, J.A. Pritchard.

Together with:

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Adams, K. Dawson, Mrs D. Ellis and C. Elsbury.

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 30th May 2013 (minute nos. 1-4; page nos. 1-3) were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY PROGRESS

The Panel received a progress report and PowerPoint presentation on the Carbon Reduction Strategy from Paul Rossiter, Energy and Water Officer.

The Strategy aims to reduce carbon emissions by 45% over a 10 year period through until 2019 and is based on the 07/08 carbon emissions. The Strategy is broken down into four key criteria from which the 45% savings will be achieved viz. Good Housekeeping 10%; Invest to Save 20%; Asset Management 10% and Renewable Technology 5%. A significant

achievement under the good housekeeping initiative was the governor, caretaker and head teacher training sessions held at local schools. Presentations are given outlining the key principles of the carbon strategy and how savings can be achieved.

The main contributing influence under Invest to Save is the Local Authority Energy Financing (LAEF) Scheme. This is a £700,000 interest free invest to save scheme where the Carbon Trust/Salix Finance contributed £200,000 and the Authority contributed £500,000. Since the scheme was established a total of £1.3m has been invested in 240 projects, saving a total of £385k and 2,408 tonnes of carbon.

In 2013/14 the LAEF scheme invested £84,691 from a target of £90,013. Projects identified for the remainder of the year include the installation of a PowerPerfector at Ty Penallta (£72k approved); Trinity Fields lighting (£52k approved by governing body); 9 further schools identified for lighting; Ty Clyd HFE oil to gas boiler (est. £100k) and boiler controls at HFE's (£12k).

There are approximately 150 large organisations included in the Salix scheme, including local authorities, universities, colleges and NHS trusts. As a comparator of performance, Caerphilly CBC was 4th in the league table of annual carbon savings in May 2011, the second best achieving local Authority behind Bristol City Council.

CCBC has an Asset Management Strategy, which will assist in the reduction of energy consumption through the proper use of buildings. In terms of Renewable Technology, there have been 9 installations to date of photovoltaic panels on schools, which do not attract Feed in Tariff (FITs). For the 7 additional properties, which do receive FITs, the financial returns have been £68k and 250,773 kWh, which has offset grid electricity and saved 135 tonnes of carbon.

When the baseline year was established the Authority was still using Ystrad Fawr Offices, plus others. Ty Penallta is the highest energy consuming building within the Authority and Tredomen Data Centre is the second highest. These buildings added approximately 3GWh per annum onto the electricity load and combined with the weather corrected gas consumption, the baseline figure should have registered in the region of 85.9 GWh. The 12.5% reduction achieved in 2012/13 excludes street lighting and focuses directly on buildings. When street lighting is added the percentage saving drops.

The Chair thanked Paul for his informative presentation and a full discussion ensued on the issues raised. It was concluded that the strategy was helping to move things in the right direction but that further consideration should be given to Authority wide initiatives or developments, which can have an impact on carbon emissions.

The Panel noted the report and progress made to date. Updates would be presented to the Panel on a regular basis.

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Paul Cooke (Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment) highlighted the key points within the Sustainable Development (SD) and Living Environment (LE) Team Annual Report 2012/1013, which is structured to reflect the 4 areas of work of the Team viz. Sustainable Council; Education for Sustainable Development; The Living Environment and Rural Development, Sustainable Energy.

The Team had worked closely with ICT Services, the Energy Management Team and the Carbon Reduction Group in terms of the use of IT equipment and the sustainability agenda. To date 245 multi function printers have been deployed across the Authority and the duplex rate of 68% has saved 14.3 million pages. The centralisation of paper and toner processes

has lead to a reduction in ordering and invoicing for the Authority and a reduction in photocopier leases and contract management.

A considerable amount of work has also been undertaken by Procurement which is striving to embed sustainability into its procurement processes by including its Sustainability Policy in all tender documentation and undertaking Sustainability Risk Assessments at the initial stages of all relevant procurement processes. The Team also works closely with Performance Management in terms of the Corporate Improvement Plan.

The Team has also worked with Housing on the Arbed Programme at Fochriw and Hollybush and also on the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), a central government initiative that requires energy suppliers to deliver energy saving measures to domestic customers in low income areas.

Work has been ongoing with SEWTA over the past few years to incorporate various sustainable transport initiatives into the Authority. As part of this work the Council has continued to hold the WG backed All Wales Travel Plan Award at Gold Level. Eleven events promoting sustainable travel and highlighting the support and initiatives available to staff to enable them to travel more sustainably were held in 2012/13. Events were held during National Bike Week to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and cycle to work. In line with its commitment to reduce CO2 emissions from vehicles the Council has established a Salary Sacrifice Car Scheme as part of a government sponsored initiative to provide a leasing arrangement for low emission cars.

The second CCBC Pedometer Challenge took place in January/February. The 725 participants in total walked 3 times around the world with the average individual increasing his/her weekly steps by 8 miles.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been a priority within the Authority since October 2004 when a dedicated ESD Officer was appointed to drive the agenda forward. At 31st March 2013, all 91 schools in the county borough had achieved an Eco School award, with 13 Bronze awards, 22 Silver and 56 Green Flag awards. Four schools in the county borough had also achieved the Eco School Platinum award. An Eco Early Years Award Scheme is being developed to support early years settings working on environmental and sustainable projects as part of the settings development plan. In addition, support and training is available for the ESDGC Youth Award Scheme, the Healthy Colleges Scheme and the Fairtrade Schools Scheme. Six schools currently hold the Fairtrade Schools Award and 20 are working towards it. In partnership with the UWHA, £220,000 has been secured to install solar PV panels on 9 schools with an additional £71,000 being secured for Phase 2 of the scheme.

The SD & LE Team has continued to support Young Enterprise, the UK's largest and enterprise education charity. The Team sponsored the award for the environment category in 2012/13, which was won by pupils from Lewis Girls Comprehensive School who developed a range of eco-friendly Christmas decorations and wedding favours made from recycled materials.

The SD & LE Team co-ordinates the Living Environment Partnership (LEP), which is one of the 4 thematic partnerships of Caerphilly's Community Strategy. A key focus of their work in 2012/13 has been to ensure the integration of sustainable development and living environment issues into the developing Single Integrated Plan for the county borough. The Caerphilly Environmental Quality (CEQ) Group, a sub-group of the Living Environment Partnership, was successful in securing an allocation of £25,000 funding from the Authority's Community Assets Fund for the Group to undertake priority projects during 2012/13. The CEQ Group supported various projects in 2012/13 including Fairview Community Garden, Wern Park Forest and Outdoor Education Facility, Nelson and Healthy Rivers.

The Team also co-ordinates the "Come Outside! Greater Bargoed Project" and secured an allocation of £10,000 from the Community Assets budget for works to support the Allotments Strategy which aims to bring disused and redundant plots in particular back into food production.

Climate change adaptation is a major area of work for both the SD & LE Team and the Living Environment Partnership. The Climate Change Woodlands concept was developed as a public engagement tool and links with the Climate Change Commitment scheme. At events throughout the county borough, local residents were encouraged to sign a climate change commitment to change their behaviour to reduce their contribution to climate change. The total number of residents that have signed a commitment to combat climate change is 5,635.

In 2011 two Sustainable Development Energy Officers joined the SD & LE Team. Their main role is to engage with farming households and rural businesses to reduce energy use, promote the uptake of renewable energy and help them to adapt to climate change. The officers offer three levels of support, viz. Level 1 - Information and Advice; Level 2 - Surveys and Support and Level 3 - Mentoring Support/Exemplars.

As part of the process of promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy to businesses, the RDP Sustainable Energy Team offer free energy surveys to businesses whose bills are under £30,000 per year. The energy survey includes a site visit, during which a questionnaire is completed. Following this a report is generated that provides advice and recommendations on how the owner can improve the energy efficiency of the site, look at suitable renewable energy technologies and provide approximate costs and paybacks.

The first exemplar of Level 3 support is the development of Maes yr Onn Farm off grid living, near Manmoel. A partnership between the RDP Sustainable Energy Team, Building Research Establishment, SSE and Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW) worked with the family to provide a solution that balances resource efficiency with renewable technologies. The second exemplar aims to promote behaviour change and to replicate the lessons learnt from the Maes yr Onn project to demonstrate sustainable living and to encourage and enable others to reduce ensure consumption without reducing their quality of life. The third exemplar aimed to develop micro hydro schemes within the county borough.

As a result of a wider Climate Change Adaptation Project being delivered by CCBC's SD Team, the RDP Energy Team commissioned a study to identify projected future climate changes, the implications for farms and rural businesses in Caerphilly and to identify actions that can be taken to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change in the county borough. The results will be used to raise awareness with rural communities within the county borough of the implications of climate change.

In terms of funding, the SD & LE Team secured an additional £240,984 for projects in 2012/13, including £71,000 from UWHA for Solar Schools Phase II, £37,975 from Living Environment Partners to match CEQ projects and £10,525 for allotment projects from the Community Assets budget. It also contributed to securing Arbed funding worth £3.5m and to securing CESP/CERT funding worth £7.3m.

The Panel noted the report and congratulated the Team on its achievements against the priorities set for 2012/13.

The meeting closed at 18.45 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2014.

CHAIRMAN