



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,  
ON THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**

---

PRESENT:

Councillor K James - Chair

Councillors:

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

Together with:

P Cooke (Team Leader Sustainable Development and Living Environment); A Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

The Chair had sent a message to confirm he would arrive late, prior to the commencement of the meeting. It was moved and seconded that Councillor C Elsbury Chair the meeting until Councillor K James arrived.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Adams and H.A. Andrews.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on the 28th May 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT (SD AND LE) TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 AND PRESENTATION**

Members were informed of the progress achieved by the Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team against the priorities for 2014/15. The team continue to raise awareness of the key sustainable development issues, which affect the Authority and to implement projects designed to improve the sustainability of the Authority.

The team annual report highlight the work of the team, including the work in partnership with the Sustainable Development Core Group, the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (SDAP) and the Greener Caerphilly Outcome Group. The report identified where each of these groups has been involved and their role in providing support and promoting a culture where sustainable projects can develop with or without their direct involvement. The annual report is structured to reflect the four areas of work, namely sustainable council, education for sustainable development, greener Caerphilly and rural development programme (sustainable energy).

Some specific achievements in 2014/15 include:

Assessing the Authority's ability to adapt to climate change which involved interviews and consultation with 43 senior officers from across all 18 of the Authority's Services.

71% of schools have achieved a Green Flag (the highest award) under the Eco Schools programme. Ten schools have achieved their second Eco School green flag award, with twenty-two schools also achieving their third flag and working towards their platinum award. sixteen schools have achieved the coveted Eco Schools Platinum Award.

Sustainable Energy advice was given to 51 farms and rural businesses in 2014/15.

The SD & LE Team secured a total of £126,037 of funding for projects in 2014/15.

Members were informed of new legislation that will come into effect in April 2016 (Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and outlined the principles of the Act that will make public bodies listed, do what they do in a sustainable way with a more joined up approach.

The Officer confirmed that a health and wellbeing survey questionnaire had been distributed to staff and in total 1,014 responses were received in relation to the 2014/15 survey. The overall average level of understanding of sustainable development from the 2014/15 survey was 2.37 per cent. This was down from 2.5 in 2008 and further down from 2.6 in October 2007.

The Committee were informed that six events promoting sustainable travel during 2014/15 under the salary sacrifice scheme, 390 members of staff purchased bikes and 116 staff members purchased new gas cars (with a further 46 awaiting delivery).

Reference was made to the current pedometer challenge (which runs across Wales) and confirmed that 338 members of staff participated this year and walked 27,000 miles.

Members were updated regarding the literacy and numeracy framework and how the areas had been identified using E5DGC which has been mapped against the literacy and numeracy framework for years 2, 6 and 9 with suggested activities, website links and resources identified for each of the elements within the framework. These documents will support schools embedding the requirements of the new literacy and numeracy framework within their curriculum planning and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching. Resource packs are available for teachers and also website links provided.

The Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team co-ordinate the "Greener Caerphilly" outcomes theme of the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan. The work is based around three themes:

- (1) improved local environmental quality;
- (2) reduce the causes and adapting to the effects of climate change;
- (3) maximise the use of the environment for health benefits.

The group operates a small grant scheme which requires at least a pound for pound match funding to encourage maximum powerful input. In 2014/15 the community scheme provided funding with £12,431 to support six projects.

Members were updated in relation to the Rural Development Plan (RDP). The aim of the project is to engage with farm households and rural business to reduce energy use, promote the uptake of renewable energy and help them to adapt to climate change. RDP funding came to an end at the end of December 2014.

The SD and LE Team secured an additional £126,037 to contribute to the ongoing work in 2014/15 and monitored the progress of paragraph 4.23 of appendix 1 attached to the officer's report.

A Member queried the issue of solar panels in local schools and wanted to make a public tribute to Paul Cooke with his hard work and commitment in the progress made to date.

Concerns were raised in relation to the percentage of workforce and their knowledge and understanding of sustainable development.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his informative report and presentation and noted the achievement against the priority set for 2014/15.

## **5. LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACT PROFILE**

Mr Cooke updated Members in relation to the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) and the recommendations approved by the corporate management team on the 30th July 2015.

The Authority is required to make progress in adapting to climate change and to report annually on its progress. Meetings were undertaken with 43 senior officers covering each of the 18 service areas within the Authority. 128 impacts were identified, of which 33 were rated as high priority for further assessment. The report identifies a total of 14 recommendations divided into two areas: the first is existing work and reviews where consideration of climate change adaptation issues should be included and the second is specific additional work on climate adaptations issues.

Members were informed that the Climate Change Act 2008 gave Welsh Ministers the power to issue guidance on climate change impacts and adaptation. The Minister expects all key reporting authorities to make continued progress in preparing for a change in climate and identified the challenge as being to embed consideration of climate change impacts and possible response into decision making processes. Statutory guidance was published setting out the detail of what is required. The guidance is in five parts, based on a management system styled approach.

The first phase of the LCLIP process consisted of pre-searching media sources in order to identify occurrences of extreme weather events, during the study period between January 2003 and December 2003 the research identified 89 severe weather events. As part of the next stage of the process, interviews, workshops and questionnaires were used with 43 senior managements across the 18 service areas within the authority to verify the data and to identify priority impacts. The study also identified that the authority was subject to numerous changes being driven by external factors including the financial climate and new legislation.

The report recommends the twin-track approach with some high level issues such as a review of key policies, being combined with some further work on specific impacts relating to individual service areas.

The completion of the LCLIP will mean that the steps outlined in Part 1 of the Welsh Government's statutory guidance will be complete. The next steps, set out in Part 2, are for those impacts identified as being of high priority, to go forward for further investigation, vulnerability assessment and risk assessment.

Members noted the progress being made on the Climate Impact Profile within the Authority.

The meeting closed at 4.57pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

---

CHAIR