

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th December 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Renewable Energy Strategy

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet was presented with a Renewable Energy Strategy for consideration.

It was explained that the stability of energy supplies derived from fossil fuels could no longer be relied upon due to price volatility, an overall substantive increase in grid electricity and gas prices and the requirement to contribute to Government carbon reduction budgets. The use of renewable energy supply therefore needed to become an important part of the Council's approach to meeting future energy demands.

Under the carbon management programme Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council had committed to a 25% reduction in carbon emissions by 2013 whilst central Government had set greenhouse gas reduction targets of 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. These levels of carbon emission reduction would only be achieved by a move away from carbon rich fossil fuels towards renewable and other sustainable energy supplies

To this end a Renewable Energy Strategy had been developed for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council that explained the drivers for renewables, the practicable means of introducing renewable energy supply and the technologies and routes to reducing the Council's dependency on fossil fuels.

The Renewable Energy Strategy would support the Climate Change Action Plan, Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, Sustainable Construction and national policies on carbon emissions reduction. The strategy focused upon the authority's own use of energy and was not a planning policy document. Policies relating to renewable energy were being dealt with through the Local Development Framework and associated planning policies.

This strategy was concerned with energy use in buildings and identified potential means of delivering both renewable electricity and renewable

heat by a variety of means including significant input from off-site renewable energy generation.

This document provided a route map to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council becoming increasingly self sufficient in low carbon energy supply providing increased security of supply and cost as well as reducing the carbon emissions associated with Council operations.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the content of the Renewable Energy Strategy, as provided to members, be noted.
2. the Renewable Energy Strategy be agreed as a delivery mechanism to reduce carbon emissions derived from the Council's energy consumption.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council had committed to carbon reductions of 25% by 2013.
2. Government targets for 34% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 rising to an 80% reduction by 2050 would be passed onto the Council through National Indicators such as NI185 which currently forms part of the Local Area Agreement.
3. The Renewable Energy Strategy provided clear guidance for the implementation of sustainable energy supply for Council buildings.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Cllr Cunningham declared a personal prejudicial interest in the item entitled Renewable Energy Strategy as his employment was associated with renewable energy. Councillor Cunningham left the meeting during consideration and voting on the item.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Tuesday, 29th December 2009

Proper Officer
21 December 2009