

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting7th February 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Scrutiny Review of Energy Supply

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Scrutiny Review of Energy Supply.

The Corporate and Social Inclusion (CSI) Select Committee undertook a review of energy supply taking a detailed look at what the Council sought to achieve including the key objectives of energy provision at a long term stable price, security of supply, a reduction in carbon emissions and how to stimulate the renewable energy supplier and energy technology markets with the aim of increasing employment opportunities.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The promotion of using photovoltaic cells wherever possible on Council owned properties and elsewhere.
2. The updated Sustainable Construction Policy reflect all advances in renewable energy technology to ensure buildings are as energy efficient as possible while delivering value for money.
3. Whenever possible officers/Members use the electric cars that have been leased to Stockton Council.
4. Stockton Council ensure the cost of operation of pool cars is fully offset by reduction in business mileage.
5. Initiatives such as Energy Service Companies to aid future energy supply for the Council are considered regarding their positive contribution to meeting the Council's objective on future energy supply.
6. Stockton Council do not commit to a specific course of action thereby allowing the flexibility to work alone or with others to best benefit from renewable energy.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. Reliance on current forms of energy supplies have a limited lifespan as there is a requirement to reduce carbon emissions substantially. The ability to benefit from renewable energy became a reality during the time of this review with the installation of photovoltaic (PV) cells on Council buildings.
2. In particular a link between the PV cells and electric charging points provides the opportunity for 'free energy' to charge electric cars leased to Stockton Council from electricity generated 'by Stockton Council'.
3. Current energy supply is delivered through natural gas and grid electricity that is purchased through supply contracts negotiated for the majority of North East Council's by NEPO. Flexible procurement has enabled the electricity and gas to be purchased using the futures market thus enabling optimum prices to be obtained. The Committee believe that Stockton Borough could benefit from exploring the opportunities provided by the industries in the vicinity.
4. One option is the establishment of a LA-controlled 'arm's length' Energy Service Company (ESCo) which would deliver energy projects on the LA's behalf. The benefit would provide the LA with an additional revenue stream and help it to meet its strategic objectives without being exposed to the associated risks.
5. The Committee support the utilisation of a wide range of renewable energy sources as no single source could currently provide the whole of the Council's energy requirements.
6. Particular support was expressed for the possibilities offered by wind power, especially the projected amounts of energy from offshore wind turbines when equated to what it could power within the borough.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight on Friday, 15th February 2013

Proper Officer
11 February 2013