

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 3rd August, 2009.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: I Miles (Xentrall), I Ithurralde (CESC), M Chicken, Gordon Mallory (DNS), G Birtle and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other person's were present

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Bill Woodhead and Mrs A Warburton (ICT Support Team Leader, Education Establishment)

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2009

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2009.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2009 be approved and forwarded to Council for consideration upon the removal of 'squared' from the minutes.

3 Review of Carbon Management

Members were provided with a presentation identifying the energy consumption and carbon footprint related to Information Technology within Schools and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Offices.

Members were advised that the purchase of energy efficient equipment was a positive step, however educating users to change behaviour/habits could provide a significant savings for very little financial outlay; such as removal of screen savers which used increased energy and turning off monitors. The most effective reduction of carbon emissions was to not print. Maximising the effects of servers, using energy efficient equipment, video conferencing, electronic agendas and virtual classrooms were also effective ways to increase carbon efficiency.

Officers advised that there were four main components to reducing carbon emissions related to Information Technology and its uses, which were:-

- Planning and Procurement
- Disposal of Equipment
- Policy and Procedures
- Education

It was identified that a Policy and Practice needed to be developed. Becta would be publishing guidance on saving power and recycling components.

Members were given further information/clarification of 'Building Research

Establishment's Environmental Assessment'(BREEAM)

CONCLUDED that the presentation be noted.

4 Work Programme

Members were advised that the next meeting (24th August 2009) would be for the formulation of recommendations.

The Chair requested that Members looked back at their notes to provide contribution of recommendations.

CONCLUDED that Members review their notes and attend the next meeting with recommendations.

5 Chairs Update

The Chair had nothing to report.