

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**GREENING THE WORKPLACE - REVISIT**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel in relation to Greening the Workplace - Revisit.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 13 October 2010, the council considered a report of the Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel in relation to Greening the Workplace - Revisit.
- 2.2 The report was approved by council and referred to cabinet for consideration of the recommendations with a view to the preparation of an action plan.
- 2.3 The panel completed its revisit of this issue in September 2010. The panel felt it would be timely to revisit the 2006 report Greening the Workplace for a number of reasons -
- Revisiting previous work was considered good practice as it enabled scrutiny members to monitor progress and hold the council's executive to account.
  - From 1 April 2010 the council is beginning to operate within a pilot period of carbon trading. This means that the council will have to work within the National Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme with potential fines of up to £300,000 a year if targets are not met. However, if the council exceeds its targets, it can trade these on the open market potentially making a profit.
  - Meeting the challenge of climate change is a huge task, and the panel believes strongly that North Lincolnshire Council must play its part by reducing emissions and encourage others to do likewise.

2.4 Following its review the panel made 13 detailed recommendations. A copy of the recommendations are attached as an appendix to the report.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 There are no options associated with this report.

### **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

4.1 There may be some resource implications associated with the recommendations when they are implemented.

### **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

5.1 There may be other implications associated with the implementation of the recommendations which will be highlighted in any action plan.

### **6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

6.1 The panel consulted widely with other scrutiny members and officers and other organisations and individuals in relation to the preparation of the original report.

### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 That the Service Director Highways and Planning and the Cabinet Members Highways, Planning and Energy prepare an action plan in response to the recommendations of the report for submission to a future meeting of Cabinet.

### **SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report** - Report of the Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel

## Recommendations

The final recommendations of the panel are summarised below:

### **Recommendation 1**

That appropriate officers produce an annual energy and water usage report for consideration by Council, including within the 2010/11 municipal year.

### **Recommendation 2**

The panel recommends that volunteer wardens are re-introduced as a matter of some urgency, with communication and co-ordination led by the council-wide Carbon Management Group. The panel believes that the Chair and all members of this group take all appropriate action to ensure the long-term viability of the volunteer warden scheme.

### **Recommendation 3**

The panel recommends that every service area strive to achieve ISO 14001 accreditation over the next three years. The panel further recommends that this be co-ordinated by the Climate Change Steering Group, in consultation with the Carbon Management Group. The panel expects that the Chief Executive and the council's Leadership Team would take ownership and drive progress on this issue, taking any action as appropriate. As such, members recommend that the Chief Executive provide a full progress report back to the scrutiny panel twelve months after this report is considered by Council.

### **Recommendation 4**

The panel recommends that consideration be given to amalgamating the work of the Climate Change Steering Group and the Carbon Management Group in order to prevent duplication.

### **Recommendation 5**

The panel recommends that the Carbon Management Group consider whether introducing targets for individual service areas, based on current energy emissions, are an appropriate method for reducing usage and increasing accountability at service level.

### **Recommendation 6**

The panel recommends that during the 2010/11 municipal year the council, with support from relevant partners and specialists, conduct a Performance Improvement Panel on the combined elements of NI 185, NI 186 and NI 194. Members would expect the usual follow-up processes and action planning to occur following the Performance Improvement Panel's work.

### **Recommendation 7**

The panel recommends that the council's Fleet Manager, with appropriate support, conduct a green fleet review, making short, medium and long-term recommendations to improve green transportation to the council's Cabinet, Leadership Team and appropriate Heads of Service, as deemed appropriate.

### **Recommendation 8**

The panel recommends that the Fleet Manager plays a key, strategic role towards improving the council's environmental performance on transportation.

### **Recommendation 9**

The panel recommends that the Council's Cabinet and appropriate Service Directors consider implementing a corporate policy where all service requests for fleet provision or transportation include a consideration of environmental impact and sustainability, as guided by the Fleet Manager. Consideration should also be given to extending powers to the Fleet Manager to veto requests for specific vehicles where a cheaper, more energy efficient or sustainable alternative with a comparable specification exists.

### **Recommendation 10**

The panel recommends that the council continue to forge links with all schools in North Lincolnshire, in order to improve energy efficiency, and to reduce costs and emissions. The panel feels that a two-part approach should be utilised. Firstly, informal discussions should continue, and the council's Energy Manager be invited to address future meetings of Primary Heads, Secondary Headteachers and Principals and school business managers in order to explain the potential benefits, funding and other options. Secondly, where Display Energy Certificate ratings are poor, or there are concerns around data quality, the council may wish to consider including energy considerations within negotiations of each school's Service Level Agreement.

### **Recommendation 11**

The panel recommends that a prominent feature promoting the local Travellincs scheme be prepared by officers and included in Direct magazine within the 2010/11 municipal year.

### **Recommendation 12**

The panel recommends that the Council's Cabinet seek evidence-based assurances from officers across the council and other partners, that all necessary action is taking place to ensure suitable training, education and vocational opportunities are available within North Lincolnshire to match the future needs of the expanding green technology sector.

### **Recommendation 13**

The panel recommends that a regular agenda item on environmental considerations be placed on the agenda of each Culture Improvement Team across the council, supported by the regular provision of energy usage, emissions etc. wherever possible.