

**CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2008**

Started 15.00  
Finished: 16.15

**Present:** Jake Roos (Chair)  
Emmy Pateman  
Keith Osborne  
John Farnell  
Will Cockerell  
Mike Ovenden  
Peter Bastendorff

**ACTION**

- 1.0 APOLOGIES**  
Apologies were received from Simon Martin, Russell Clark and Richard Auty.
- 2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**  
There were no changes to the previous minutes.
- 3.0 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY** **JR**  
Jake stated that the strategy update still needs to be produced and published. Jake explained that a lot has happened over the past year and there are several success stories to be included within the update.
- 4.0 CARBON MANAGEMENT – STATUS OF PROJECTS**
- 4.1 TIMER PLUGS/BYE BYE STANDBY** **JR**  
Jake explained all of the cords for the timer plugs have now been finished and are ready for use in the floor boxes; they are also going to be used on printers that do not get turned off and are left on standby. Jake commented that he went on a tour of the building and has found six printers which timer plugs can be attached to.  
  
Jake continued to say that instead of using timer plugs there is a product called Bye Bye Standby which can be used. It is a plug which is attached to the main plug, it is then linked to a remote control to enable it to be turned off or alternatively a switch is placed on the wall which the last person out turns off. The company which supplies the product are going to do an audit off the Council Offices and state how they can save the Council electricity.
- 4.2 MUSEUM LIGHTING** **JR**  
Jake has heard nothing back about the samples they are currently trying out. The Retrolux lighting product is currently being used within the Housing Department however Jake has now found a very similar product which is more better designed and cheaper.
- 4.3 POINT OF USE WATER HEATING** **JR**  
Jake stated that the business case has been approved by

SMB and an order has been placed.

**4.4 QUATTROSEAL DRAUGHT PROOFING JR**

All of the draught proofing has now been completed at all of the sites London Road, Walden Place and the Saffron Walden Day Centre.

**4.5 CONTROLS IN SHELTERED HOUSING AND DAY CENTRES JR**

Jake commented that as of yet he has not heard anything back from Aqua, they are currently in the process of producing a quote. Jake continued to say that the boiler thermostats need to be turned down where draught proofing and insulation has been installed. Otherwise the rooms shall become even warmer and money shall not be saved.

**4.6 M2G JR**

Jake explained that the second trial has now been completed; using the product saw a saving of between 1 and 2% instead of the 13% which the company specifies. Another trial is now going to be taken out at the cost of the company. The third trial is going to be run during the winter months instead of the summer and the makers of the product, Sabien Technology, say the results should be closer to the 13% figure.

**4.7 RENEWABLES JR**

Quotes from E-on are £17,000 and £18,000 respectively; the quotes received are to put Solar Water Heating Panels on at two sites. E-on appears to be more reasonable as the last quote which Jake received was for £40,000. Jake explained that the project would only save £700 per annum of gas at current prices. The saving could be better and there are currently higher priority projects that need resource.

Jake has found that money can be received for the energy that we produce through a system called the Renewables Obligation. The RO certificates can be claimed from the Government and be auctioned off. If Jake decides to have the money off then the credit cannot be taken for reducing the Carbon Footprint. The group was in agreement that the credit should be taken for reducing the Carbon Footprint by 4 tons instead of the £300 that could be received from ROCs.

**4.8 CAVITY WALL INSULATION AND LOFT INSULATION JR**

Loft insulation is going to be put out to tender (17 October 2008) in order to retrieve quotes. The tenders are opened in front of two independent officers who record that they have been received.

**4.9 FUEL ADDITIVES AND DRIVER TRAINING JR**

There was nothing to report on Driver Training. Jake had

been having doubts about the fuel additive product, the company provided an independent survey which was satisfactory, the survey showed a few percentage saving which is what the product states. Jake is now going to analyse the rest of the trial data and see if there are any savings and therefore make a decision as to whether to continue with the product.

- 4.10 WATER SAVING - ENVIROFRESH** JR  
There was nothing to report.
- 4.11 AIR-BLADES** RA  
There was nothing to report as Richard Auty could not attend the meeting.
- 5.0 NI 187 FUEL POVERTY** JR  
The National Indicator has to be reported on by the end of the year. There is a company that shall produce the work for a fee of £2500. Jake is going to go to SMB to see if he can get the money to use the company as he currently does not have the money for it in the budget.
- Jake has already made a start on the National Indicator by collecting the SAP ratings; Jake also has a copy of the benefits list and the questionnaire which needs to be sent to 1500 houses. Unfortunately the majority of people will probably not send the questionnaire back therefore there is a question as to whether enough people respond to make up the required sample of 400 when combined with council housing and RSL data.
- 6.0 NI 188 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION** JR  
An application for money from the Strategic Partnership Association was made which has been declined. Jake is going to attend the Essex Regional Meeting (Thursday 23 October 2008). The status for the National Indicator is checked on 31 March 2009, therefore there is enough time to carry out the Impact Assessment which will take the Levels up to Level 1.
- 7.0 PLANNING** JR & MO  
Charles Nash is challenging the right to ask for higher sustainability rating, his concern is currently with Level 3 and the inspectors having difficulty with the Energy Efficiency Levels. There is no question that higher sustainability standards cannot be asked for. Jake stated that he is going to write a letter to try to encourage planning inspectors to use the Energy Efficiency Condition on appeals. Currently half of the inspectors agree with the measure and the other half have an issue with it.
- There is going to be a field trip to the Energy Village in Colchester, there are nine houses which have a full range of micro generated technology for sustainable homes. Some of the Community Groups which Jake is currently

involved with would like to get Councils involved with the BRE Innovation Park, which is similar to the Colchester Energy Village. There are now six houses at the BRE instead of three.

**8.0**

**HOUSING**

**JR & PB**

The current oil systems are going to be replaced with heat pumps. E-on are offering to install the heat pumps at half price at a fixed price, which would be £4,000 per property. Six would need to be done at once in order to make the installation worth while as a drilling rig is required. The oil budget is £80,000 per annum; twenty properties can be upgraded per year. The running costs and carbon emissions using heat pumps are lower and the cost of installation is cheaper. E-On are currently undertaking surveys and Jake is in the process of recommending sites for them to do.

Jake stated that there is a company which produces Thermographic Surveys; the images show where gaps are in the Cavity Wall Insulation, funding is available to fill in the gaps. It costs around £50 per property to take the image and there are 2800 Council houses which would need doing.

There is another company called Heat Seekers which also produces Thermographic Surveys, instead they use a car which take the images as they drive past houses. Taking the images is free of charge as the company then gets the Insulation work. Jake is going to chase the company up; the decision would be subject to member approval.

Peter suggested that the Council could buy a thermographic camera and produce the images ourselves. The images could then be sent off to a company for them to analyse. John Farnell suggested that one could be hired for a month to see how much it is used.

**9.0**

**RECYCLING**

No-one was available to comment.

**10.0**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No-one was available to comment.

**11.0**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**KO**

Keith commented that there has been no feedback about the Car Leasing Scheme; Keith is going to bring it up at the next HODs/SMB meeting.

The funding bid for 6.27 million has been secured for two years, it applies for the fifteen London Commuter Belt Councils, it will start the next financial year and equal to £420,000 per Council pro rata. Jake is going to tender a

**JR**

contract for somebody to handle the management. This should bring in extra money and make use of current funds.

**12.0**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

20 November at 3:00pm in the Committee Room.