

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Inquiry into the Council's CO2 emission targets

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Action by Local Authorities is crucial to the achievement of the Government's climate change objectives and it is recognised that Local Authorities are uniquely placed to provide leadership, raise awareness and influence behaviours. Previously, the drive for achievement in this area has been from a small number of committed individuals. However, Local Authorities are now recognising the need for systemic changes in order to achieve significant impact.
- 1.2 At its meeting on June 14th 2007, the Board agreed to include on the work programme an inquiry into the Council's Climate Change agenda. Given that this is a wide ranging term, the Chair has suggested that the focus of the inquiry should be on the Council's own CO2 emissions and the associated reduction targets.
- 1.3 The Council has a number of indicators relating to 'climate change mitigation' one of which focuses on the percentage CO2 reduction of the Council's own operations. The Council's estate is substantial and it is recognised that good performance against this indicator will be significant both in actual reductions in CO2 emissions and also in the Council's credibility as a community leader in this aspect.

2.0 Scope of the Inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
 - Review of future policy drivers (e.g. the proposed DEFRA LGPF indicators relating to CO2 reduction; the proposed Carbon Reduction Commitment) the definitions, targets and current performance.
 - Resourcing the climate change agenda in general and specifically with regard to reducing CO2 emissions
 - Role of external advisers/bodies in helping the Council to reduce its CO2 emissions
 - Energy management within the existing estate and the work of the Energy Guardians, departmental EMAS champions and departmental facility managers
 - Low carbon specifications for the future Council estate (including new built, major refurbishments and new leasehold buildings) a review of

recent buildings, use of whole life costing and mechanisms to cover additional capital costs.

- Travel policies for staff and fleet management

3.0 COMMENTS OF THE RELEVANT DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER

3.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.4 the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these Terms of Reference.

4.0 TIMETABLE FOR THE INQUIRY

4.1 The inquiry will take place over three sessions with a view to issuing a final report in January / February 2008.

4.2 The length of the inquiry is subject to change

5.0 SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE

Timetable to be confirmed

6.0 WITNESSES

- Director of City Development
- Relevant Executive Board Member
- Head of Sustainable Development
- Climate Change Officer
- Environment City Manager
- Representatives from the Energy Unit
- Representatives from Future Energy Yorkshire
- Representatives from Arup