

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET **20TH JULY 2010**

Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 15th July 2010

Recommendations from Renewable Energy and Efficiency Review Panel

Background

The Renewable Energy and Efficiency Review Panel was convened in response to concerns regarding the Country's dependence upon fossil fuels. Members felt that this dependence was storing up considerable problems for the future, given the finite levels of fossil fuels available, their impact upon climate change and their seemingly ever increasing cost.

Members felt that it was crucial to achieve a significant shift towards renewable energy supplies, which in the long term would be sustainable, cost effective and environmentally friendly. In addition to using more renewable energy, it was also deemed important to encourage energy efficiency and to reduce the unnecessary waste of energy.

Given this, Members agreed to examine how the Council could encourage the uptake of such technologies and measures within the district.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

Sustainability

- 1. For the Sustainability Section to build upon their promotional work in the community with regard to awareness of fuel poverty, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and grants and support, by providing relevant literature and holding awareness raising sessions at locations which will target those most vulnerable to fuel poverty, such as at Surestart Children's Centres.**
- 2. To provide a breakdown to Members regarding areas of high fuel poverty and low uptake of grants and support, so that ward Members can promote energy efficiency, grants and support to those most in need whilst carrying out their ward duties.**
- 3. To promote sustainability across as many areas of the Council's business as possible, including an advertising campaign on the Council Refuse Fleet.**
- 4. To develop the Sustainability webpage to include the following:**

- I) **A section outlining renewable energy technologies and their practical applications and benefits.**
 - II) **To invite local residents and businesses who have adopted renewable energy technologies and/or high standards of energy efficiency to submit their experiences, in order to compile a showcase of best practice case studies.**
 - III) **Further information detailing available funding, support and grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy.**
5. **To invite a speaker to provide a presentation regarding Transition Towns to the next meeting of the Quarterly Scrutiny Briefing.**

Planning

- 6. **That the Local Development Framework process encourages renewable energy and energy efficiency amongst new developments following the adoption of the Core Strategy, particularly within the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan and Site Allocations and Policies Documents.**
- 7. **To ensure that the Development Control process fully implements the Sustainable Development Standards Policy as set out in the Core Strategy, once adopted.**
- 8. **At the appropriate stage of the Local Development Framework Process to review the Design Supplementary Planning Guidance and introduce additional validation requirements for planning applications, requiring details of plans for renewable energy and efficiency measures to be provided to enable an application to be validated. Failure to provide the requisite information would prevent the application from being considered.**
- 9. **To hold a promotional seminar (or series of), at an appropriate stage in the LDF process in order to outline to developers and architects the high energy efficiency and renewable energy standards which are encouraged within the district, and the required changes for lower carbon developments contained within national Building Regulations.**

Landlord Accreditation Scheme

- 10. **To include the following criteria for accreditation within the forthcoming Landlord Accreditation Scheme:**
 - i) **Properties must be of a decent standard of thermal efficiency.**

- ii) Tenants are given advice upon request, or signposted to an appropriate advisory agency, on how best to heat their accommodation and use hot water in an energy efficient way using the facilities provided, together with details of any available funding. The Scheme Operator will assist with the provision of such information.**

Single Site

- 11. The Committee recommend the following to the Transformation Board:**
- 12. That the Single Site of Office Accommodation achieves the very best standards of energy efficiency and uses the most appropriate and effective renewable energy technologies as can be afforded.**
- 13. Details of progress in achieving the above aim to be provided on an ongoing basis to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.**