

Executive response to the Renewable Energy Scrutiny Review

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Executive Response to recommendation Decision-making body, date	Action taken or likely date of action
1	<p>Council plans to invest in sustainable energy: The Strategic Director, Place, to publish in 3 months time a public document setting out the council's plans to invest in sustainable and renewable energy.</p>	<p>The corporate buildings solar PV programme was approved in outline at Cabinet on 9 June 2011. The report covers 23 sites with a strong business case and a further 17 sites, which have the potential but will need clarification from survey work. The sites within the scheme are made up from corporate and school buildings. The procurement process for this project is currently looking at the most advantageous (time and cost) route for procuring the panels and a decision will hopefully be made imminently.</p> <p>Housing has moved quickly to assess the benefits of the Feed in Tariff scheme. In addition to FIT, Housing are exploring other options to increase investment in home energy efficiency across the city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub regional procurement of solar PV underway. Framework agreement to be in place June 2011 available for the Council to call-off after business modelling completed and further approval sought/given • Exploring the role the council will play in the delivery of the 'Green Deal' and are working towards a 'go early' scheme to replicate Green Deal benefits for city residents and to promote home energy efficiency and sustainable energy • Renewable Heat Incentive – as more details emerge we will be able to explore options to benefit both council tenants and other residents in the city 	<p>PV programme for operational sites including procurement – Energy & Water Team/Procurement (by March 2012)</p> <p>Housing Cabinet member report September 2011.</p> <p>Installation programme - Architecture & Design Manager, by April 2012</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring use of Energy Service Companies as a potential delivery vehicle for significant home energy efficiency and sustainable energy projects in the city <p>The Council has also undertaken a range of renewables projects, through works carried out by the Architectural team, that have incorporated various no and low carbon technologies alongside other sustainable design components. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balfour School: Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar Thermal and Passive Stack • Davigdor School: Solar Thermal • Somerhill Junior: Air source heat pump, solar thermal <p>Other projects currently underway include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitehawk Co-Location (Public building) Air Source heat pump, passive stack ventilation, rainwater harvesting • Whitehawk Co-Location (School) Air Source heat pump, passive stack, rainwater harvesting • Westdene Primary Air Source heat pump, passive stack, rainwater harvesting • Goldstone Primary Air Source heat pump, passive stack, rainwater harvesting, solar thermal • Queens Park Primary Air source Heat pump, passive stack ventilation • Falmer Academy, Biomass boiler, rainwater harvesting, solar thermal. 	
2	<p>Encouraging the city to invest in sustainable energy The Strategic Director, Place, to approach major</p>	<p>The council has worked with the Development Director of Shoreham Port to advise on renewables development and helped facilitate a connection with Brighton Energy Co-op which is working on securing a deal. This could be to put a solar PV array on the Hove Enterprise Centre within the</p>	<p>SPD08 to undergo review late 2011. Current 'recession busting' measures will be subject to review with a view to the introduction of carbon</p>

	<p>local land-owners and developers (including Shoreham Harbour) to explore as a matter of urgency how they can incorporate sustainable energy in their developments. The Strategic Director, Place, to report back on progress in 3 months time.</p>	<p>port; advice has also been given about appointing a project manager for the renewables work and about the impact of the FIT review. Also re work connected with the offshore windfarm development.</p> <p>Local Plan Policy SU2 and SPD08 Sustainable Building Design Supplementary Planning Document seek to deliver high levels of energy performance including installation of renewable technologies through the planning system.</p> <p>SPD08 includes a policy for carbon neutral development which has the potential to push this further. The policy has been temporarily waived as part of 'recession busting' measures.</p> <p>The submission Core Strategy promotes the growth of environmental industries in the city in policy CP16 Planning for Sustainable Economic Development. Shoreham Harbour (DA7) is identified as a specific location for environmental industries. Policy CP1 addresses Sustainable Building Design targets for new build. Policy SA6 Sustainable Neighbourhoods seeks to promote environmental sustainability improvements to new and existing buildings.</p> <p>Major local landowners have not been contacted due to the continued uncertainties in the renewables regime nationally.</p>	<p>offset payments towards grants for renewables.</p> <p>Update employment and area based priorities providing an opportunity to update and amend policies.</p> <p>Subject to members agreeing to withdraw the Core Strategy, policies will be updated and amended for October 2011 Cabinet. This will include CP1 which will be updated during the 'refresh' and public consultation undertaken.</p> <p>– City Planning</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>A sustainable energy programme for the city The council to feed into a city wide energy planning process. This programme could be developed by the City Sustainability Partnership, if sufficiently</p>	<p>The CSP does not feel well enough resourced at present to develop this programme, but has invited the emerging Sustainable Energy Working Group to its July 18 meeting to hear how this might be developed. The group is made up of experienced renewables practitioners and has a practical focus on helping the council implement these recommendations. This would also involve an early mapping exercise of energy projects in the city leading</p>	<p>CSP meeting to explore formalising link with and role of working group – July 18 2011.</p>

	<p>resourced, to produce a city-wide sustainable energy programme, to ensure that sustainable energy is integrated into all appropriate projects.</p>	<p>potentially to an on-line directory of low carbon projects and providers here.</p> <p>A city-wide programme should be developed as part of the Zero Carbon commission which is in the council's draft commissioning plan to begin in 2012/13. This conforms with the preparatory work being done for the CSP to revise the city's Climate Change Action Plan, with key strands on Housing, Transport, Industry & Commerce, Sustainable Energy and Adaptation.</p>	<p>CCAP draft due September 2011</p> <p>Commissioning Plan due to be considered in September 2011</p>
4	<p>A council policy on sustainable energy The Strategic Director, Place, to develop a corporate policy on sustainable energy which would bring together the work being undertaken across the authority.</p>	<p>A policy has been drafted but needs to be improved to reflect the new administration's ambitions and also to have a more city-wide approach.</p>	<p>Resources Unit, by September 2011</p>
5	<p>A sustainable energy team The council to explore how to establish a dedicated team – for example, a Sustainable Energy Agency - to take forward sustainable energy initiatives in the city.</p>	<p>The Council's corporate Energy & Water Team are reviewing renewables potential in the city linked to council land and buildings and as a catalyst for wider impact and deployment. Additional resources – two FTE posts - are being allocated to the team to improve the capacity to do this and existing work on energy efficiency more quickly and effectively.</p> <p>There could also be the potential for the energy working group to consider how an agency might be set up and this could form part of the commissioning process. The options need to be explored in more detail before any commitment is made to this.</p>	<p>Renewables investigation - Energy & Water Team</p> <p>Zero Carbon Commission 2012/13</p>
6	<p>Long term strategic planning The council to undertake, or</p>	<p>The level of solar availability or rather the strength and clearness of the light levels in Brighton is known to be good</p>	<p>Site suitability study and wind mapping complete - Energy &</p>

	<p>enable, a study on renewable energy potential in the city over the next 10 years.</p>	<p>and is only bettered by areas in the far South West. It is for that reason that initial studies have been carried out by the Council's corporate Energy & Water Team (EWT) to determine suitability of a number of Council properties.</p> <p>For other renewable technologies a wind mapping exercise was also carried out by the EWT, which used topographical data made available from DECC. This information was plotted onto our GIS system and sites that lent themselves to having wind turbines installed were highlighted. This information has been shared with City Planning.</p> <p>Identifying sites for renewables in city should be done through Part 2 of a citywide plan/Site Allocations document. National planning policy guidance on climate change in Planning Policy Statement 1 requires Local Planning Authorities to develop an evidence base to support policies including significant energy infrastructure. Early indications are that this approach will continue in the proposed National Planning Policy Framework (that will replace PPSs). A study on site specific opportunities for energy infrastructure should be undertaken to support future site allocations and ensure the future plan is sound.</p> <p>Assumptions were made during the scoping of the panel's work about the viability of tidal and wave energy here, but the University of Brighton has a team patenting a new system which they would like to test locally if sufficient research and development funds can be sourced to develop a prototype first.</p>	<p>Water Team</p> <p>To form part of the evidence base for commissioning for a local carbon city, a study would need to be drawn together from existing information and new information required. It is not clear yet who would lead this work.</p> <p>Progressing work on site allocations should be done through an energy infrastructure feasibility study.</p> <p>In terms of preparing this study there is a current resource gap in terms of in-house expertise and funding.</p>
7	<p>A heat mapping exercise The Strategic Director, Place, to ensure that a heat mapping exercise is undertaken.</p>	<p>Initial work has been undertaken by the council's energy manager, which has looked at the studies carried out by the London Development Agency in London to develop their heat mapping programme. This work has been supported by Planning, as the information would benefit</p>	<p>Energy Manager – 2012/13</p>

		development strategies within the city.	
8	<p>A priority for Intelligent Commissioning The Strategic Director, Place, to consider the suitability of sustainable energy as a priority for Intelligent Commissioning and identify how both sustainable and renewable energy could be embedded in the council's planning process.</p>	Zero Carbon is one of the potential priorities for a draft City Commissioning Plan and Sustainable Energy is a key strand of this.	2012/13 provisionally. Plan due for consideration by Cabinet in September.
9	<p>Monitoring sustainable energy The Head of Planning and Public Protection to identify a resource to monitor renewable energy projects in the city and establish a monitoring system which enables learning from these projects to inform future policy.</p>	<p>The revised online Sustainability Checklist for Planning facilitates close monitoring of energy technologies proposed as part of development through the planning process.</p> <p>Data on low and zero carbon technologies will be subject to regular monitoring. Findings will inform policy development and implementation.</p>	<p>The checklist launched on July 6th 2011 became a validation requirement from July 13th 2011 for planning applications for new residential and non residential development and conversions.</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will report back from the new checklist from 2012.</p> <p>The AMR will measure the implementation of policies in the Core Strategy once adopted including policies set out in section 2 of the table.</p>
10	<p>Training and employment - opportunities and gaps The Strategic Director, Place, to ask the Economic Development team to review</p>	The council's local employment scheme co-ordinator has started discussions with City College and South Downs college regarding the courses they are providing, following training promoted to local trades and business people on FIT and PV opportunities at events in Eastbourne and	

	and identify the training and employment suppliers for this sector; including the opportunities and gaps – e.g. apprenticeships, helping job seekers, City Employment Skills Plan and potential links to the city's Economic Partnership and the 'Coast to Capital' Local Enterprise Partnership.	Lewes. Economic Development is working with Shoreham Harbour Partnership, West Sussex CC, City College Brighton & Hove, Northbrook College and partners in Plymouth, Southampton, Rotterdam and Antwerp to bid for EU funds to promote Port related employment for young unemployed people. The bid focuses on the development of Shoreham Harbour and the jobs, career and apprenticeship opportunities they provide e.g. the wind farm and bio fuel operations. If successful the bid will represent an investment of around £1million toward new curriculum, closer links between business and schools and work to promote supply chains for the sector.	The bid deadline is 8 July approved bids announced January 2012
11	Raising the profile of renewables The Strategic Director, Place, to establish a campaign to raise the profile of renewable energy.	A communications strategy is developing in relation to the new administration's priorities, not least for making Brighton & Hove the UK's Greenest City and this will contain a core component on renewables; to date the uncertainties in government policy on FITs have made it difficult to communicate. The City Council has sponsored Fotodocument to commission an international photographer Markel Redondo to document world leading Spanish solar power projects as part of a major exhibition of positive environmental images to be staged at Brighton Station and other SE stations in 2012. http://www.fotodocument.org/shortlist.htm	September 2011 alongside corporate plan
12	A statement of ambition The City Sustainability Partnership to be resourced to link up with universities, developers and installers in the city, community groups, as well as energy utility companies and developers	The CSP has limited resources still but can explore this as part of the unallocated LPSA reward funds made to the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership. Some good links on this work exist currently – especially with the University of Brighton – but this could be developed and expanded. Again the working group may have a key role in this as it also contains a number of	Funds re-allocated Autumn 2011 – Public Service Board

	experienced in city-scale renewables in other cities to produce a statement of ambition on sustainable energy for Brighton & Hove.	installers. The Greens manifesto contains a number of statements of ambition reflected in para. 3.3 of the report accompanying this Appendix.	
13	Helping community energy The Strategic Director, Place, to ensure that the Citywide Sustainable Energy programme would have as a key aim to use the growth of this sector to assist the community.	Talks are underway with Finance South East to explore the potential of the city council investing in a community energy fund which would finance feasibility and start-up stages of community energy funds. Discussions have also been held with Brighton Energy Co-op to explore possible sites for investment.	Meeting held on July 8, 2011