



Sustainable development panel

09:30 to 10:15

13 December 2017

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Coleshill (substitute for Councillor Brociek-Coulton), Davis (from middle of item 3), Grahame, Jackson and Malik

Apologies: Councillors Thomas (Va) (vice chair), Brociek-Coulton, Davis, and Lubbock, and also Councillor Maguire (who had agreed to substitute for Councillor Davis)

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017.

3. Environmental Statement 2015-17

(The environmental strategy manager introduced Rachel Sowerby, fuel poverty and energy officer, to the panel.)

The environmental strategy manager presented the report and explained that Councillor Maguire, the cabinet member for safe city environment, had requested that the panel had an opportunity to review the statement before it was considered by the scrutiny committee in January.

The chair congratulated the environmental strategy manager and team for their contribution for the reduction of the council's carbon footprint and exceeding targets.

During discussion, the environmental strategy manager and the environmental strategy officer, referred to the report and answered members' questions. Members were advised that NI 186 (per capita carbon dioxide emissions in the local area) was centrally produced and there was a two year gap. The environmental strategy manager confirmed that members could be provided with a link¹ to the breakdown of the data (UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics) for the business and public sector, domestic housing and road transport.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

In reply to a question, the environmental strategy manager explained that the list of organisations listed under Section 7, Natural Environment was not exhaustive and recent developments were reflected in the Statement. Members commented on issues relating to food poverty and commercial food waste which could be further considered at the scrutiny committee.

Members noted that the council was in the process of procuring its White Energy company which would provide a range of tariffs, including pre-payment meters.

In relation to the council's asset management programme members were advised that assets no longer in the council's ownership were not included in the carbon management programme.

Discussion ensued on differing political emphasis on transport policies and balancing this with the growth agenda. Members commented on the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan and there was consensus that the council should oppose dispersal growth options. Members discussed their views on the development of Norwich International Airport as a regional airport and the impact of the Northern Distributor Road. The chair pointed out that the Norwich Transport Strategy was based on reliable transport models.

The chair said that the council had been right to set the targets based on the 2007 baseline figures and that there had been an 8 per cent reduction year on year. A member referred to the impact of climate change and that it was important to ensure that reductions in carbon dioxide emissions continued.

RESOLVED to note the report.

CHAIR