

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 29 May 2014.

PRESENT

Councillor C R Moesby (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs C Bisknell, P Dunn, S Freeborn, M V Longden and D Lomax.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor T A Kemp and S Marshall-Clarke.

11/14 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Resources held on 13 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12/14 **UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW OF NON-OPERATIONAL PROPERTY** The final report on the review of the Council's non-operational property holdings had been approved at Cabinet at its meeting on 3 December 2013. Mr S West, Corporate Property, gave an oral update on the work being undertaken and progress made by the Corporate Property Services Division. The presentation covered the work being undertaken on customer segmentation, the corporate landlord concept and agreed property disposals.

RESOLVED to note the work currently being undertaken in Corporate Property Services Division in response to the review.

13/14 **REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY – FINAL REPORT**

Councillor Dunn presented the final report of the Working Group set up to investigate the potential of the use of sustainable energy for DCC property.

The conclusions of the review were:-

- The review had identified that there were a number of potential opportunities for the County Council to promote sustainable energy projects. These opportunities could have an impact on a number of the Council's Departments and cross-cut the portfolio responsibilities of most, if not all, of the Council's Cabinet Members.
- The Council had an Environmental Sustainability Group which comprised of officers who had a strategic responsibility to oversee

reducing the Council's energy usage and associated costs and achieving carbon reduction targets.

- To ensure that an efficient and effective corporate approach was applied to assessing the viability of energy generation projects, the Scrutiny Review Working Group recommended the establishment of a corporate team of officers to undertake sustainable energy project appraisals. The work of this group should contribute to and complement the work of the Environmental Sustainability Group by undertaking rigorous assessments of the viability of proposed projects at an early stage. It would be appropriate for the lead officers on this group to be the Council's Carbon and Energy Manager and the Principal Policy Officer leading on sustainability. The group should ensure that financial, legal and asset management implications were considered at an early stage in any project assessment.
- An important aspect of measuring the viability of potential projects should be the risk of changes in funding streams for long term projects (such as reduction or withdrawal of government subsidies) and these should be factored in to project assessments.

RESOLVED (1) that the endeavours of County Council officers and Members in promoting and developing sustainable energy use by the Authority be commended and supported;

(2) that the potential for large scale sustainable energy production on Council owned sites and premises be investigated thoroughly, with viable projects being put forward for development following a rigorous assessment process;

(3) that the assessment of potential projects be undertaken by a cross-departmental officer team, to include finance, legal and asset-management professionals, to ensure a comprehensive approach from an early stage;

(4) that any future developments or innovations that may occur within the sustainable/renewable energy sector also be considered through the cross-departmental officer team; and

(5) that Cabinet be informed of the review outcomes and be requested to agree the review recommendations.

14/14 WORK PROGRAMME The Improvement and Scrutiny Management Committee had allocated to this Committee a number of review proposals for incorporation in its work programme.

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| 1. An outward looking review at how current budget cuts of ALL public services are impacting on the people of Derbyshire. This could link in with Anti-Poverty review – sample the effects on “virtual” Derbyshire people/families and information gathering to help inform the Council’s strategy. |
| 2. Review of Credit Unions (how much DCC contributes/how effective are they?) |
| 3. Trusted Trader Scheme review – what is current extent of services and can this be extended? For example, Taxi Firms. |

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that at the next meeting, scoping reports be considered in respect of the proposed reviews of Credit Unions and the Trusted Trader Scheme, with the review of the effect of the budget cuts being undertaken later in the year.