

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13 October 2010, 2pm at County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Michael Green (In the Chair)

County Councillor Tim Ashton
County Councillor Mike Calvert
County Councillor Susie Charles
County Councillor Janice Hanson
County Councillor Mark Perks

Co-Opted Members

Anne Selby – Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were also received from Liz O'Neill – Environment Agency

Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None were declared.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2010 were presented.

8. **Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Andy Mullaney provided an update on resolution 3 from the previous meeting to confirm that an awards scheme for Schools regarding sustainability and energy use was being developed and information would be circulated to members of the Committee in the next few weeks.

Introduction / What is Adaptation

Joanne Hudson introduced the subject Adaptation and gave a PowerPoint presentation (circulated) of the key points, Joanne explained that the presentation highlighted issues relating to adapting to climate change and extreme weather conditions. Joanne's presentation highlighted predicted climate changes, what the potential impacts of these changes are and

adaptation actions being taken to try and reduce some of the potential impacts.

Joanne went on to explain that climate change will affect some more than others and that adaptation is about assessing the local risks and opportunities and taking appropriate action.

Joanne summarised her presentation by outlining why we need to adapt to climate change and that adaptation action by local authorities is essential and National Indicator 188 measures performance of local authorities in achieving targets.

9. Resolved: The Committee noted the presentation.

Progress so far and next steps on adaptation and NI188

Joanne Hudson presented the report and described progress on adaptation and work to support meeting the requirements of National Indicator NI188 that has been undertaken. Joanne explained that the County Council had achieved Level 1 – Assess current and future vulnerabilities to extreme weather and climate change – in 2009. Level 2 – Undertake a comprehensive risk based assessment had also been achieved in 2010. Currently work was being undertaken to progress towards Level 3 with a target of 2011 set to complete this level.

Joanne highlighted some of the priority risks identified from completing a comprehensive risk assessment and updated on progress on the developing adaptation action plan and emerging strategic objectives (as detailed in the report).

Joanne also explained that in terms of action plans, currently the County Council has its own individual action plan, as do each of the District Councils which are considered at a District Working Group. At some point in the future these plans could be joined together if resources allow, and if there is sufficient commonality.

Members of the Committee raised questions about the recent hose pipe ban imposed on the North West region and also decisions by United Utilities to sell reservoir supplies before the recent hose pipe ban. After some discussion County Councillor Ashton advised that he had written to the chair of Scrutiny Committee to request that they invite United Utilities to attend a Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss recent events and how to develop a joined up approach. Officers agreed to investigate and report back at a future Committee meeting.

10. Resolved: The Committee noted the report and requested to be updated on the outcome of United Utilities attendance at the Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 11 February 2011 and for officers to report to a future Committee meeting on the disposal of surplus reservoir water supplies.

Lancashire County Council response to Environment Agency presentation 'lessons learnt from Cumbria floods'

Bernard Kershaw presented the report (circulated) and outlined the key issues relating to planning for and responding to emergencies and the wider aspects of flood management arising from the Pitt Report and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Bernard explained that within Lancashire generic "multi-agency" arrangement exist for the response to all major incidents. It is accepted practice, reiterated from the Cockermouth floods, that the "think big – act early" principle should be applied. In more formal language this is known as the "precautionary principle" recognising that it is more effective to establish the multi- agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group sooner rather than later. Similarly it is recognised that the response to major incidents can only be effective if it is based on accurate and update information.

In a wider context the process of "learning lessons" from the Cockermouth floods of November 2009 is set in the emergency planning framework provided by the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF - a statutory body established under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004) within which Lancashire County Council is a key member along with emergency services, health authorities, all local authorities in the County and the Environment Agency.

Following the Sir Michael Pitt report on flooding of 2007 and the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, (March 2010) has substantially changed. There is now a statutory basis to the co-ordination of flood risk management with the Environment Agency providing a national strategic overview and upper tier local authorities required to take on a leadership role for the management of flood risk within their areas, particularly surface and groundwater flooding and ordinary watercourses that do not fall within the Environment Agency's remit.

In February 2009 the County Council Executive Leadership Team appointed the Director of Highways and Environmental Management to oversee the strategic implementation of the Pitt recommendations and the Flood and Water Management Act. Subsequently the Lancashire Chief Executives agreed that the County Council should take the lead role, in liaison with other local authorities in the County, to establish appropriate partnership arrangements between local authorities and with the Environment Agency. To achieve this each local authority has nominated a liaison officer to act as a single point of contact and regular meetings are now held. Work is now ongoing to develop surface water management plans and a County wide preliminary flood risk assessment is to be completed by June 2011.

The Committee commented on the quick response provided in the instance of the Cumbrian floods and discussed how businesses were affected directly and some of the lessons learnt from how to assist and help businesses recover in these circumstances.

11. Resolved: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Highways – adaptation

John Thorp gave a PowerPoint presentation on adapting to climate change and the impact on the Highways in Lancashire. John explained that due to changes in climatic conditions, i.e. hotter drier summers, milder wetter winters and more extreme rainfall events that highway maintenance was more challenging.

John described the Key Highway Service areas, which included winter service, trees and vegetation, materials and resurfacing, drainage and structures and how these services are adapted to address the challenges in meeting expectations and unpredictable natural of climatic conditions. In responding to questions from the Committee John described techniques used to repair pot holes and surface roads and also described specific winter services such as road gritting and the differences in road construction techniques and materials.

In summary John described the measures being taken by the County Council to effectively provide Highway Services whilst adapting to climate change, including:

- Surface Water Management Plan.
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.
- Local watercourse management.
- Introduction of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Introduction of permeable surfaces.
- Changing materials to cope with flooding.
- Adapting Gulley emptying frequency.
- Increasing capacity at bridges and culverts.
- Increasing inspections to at risk structures from scour.
- Introducing risk management to landslips.

12. Resolved: The Committee noted the presentation.

Adaptation in Wyre – a District perspective

Councillor May Gandhi and Mark Broadhurst, Housing Services Manager from Wyre Borough Council gave a PowerPoint presentation on a District perspective to adapting to climate change.

Mark explained that Wyre Borough Council agenda was driven by the Climate Change Strategy 2008 (2010 refresh) and National Indications 185, 186, 187 and 188 which have all been adopted. Mark went on to highlight some of the projects Wyre Borough Council have undertaken to cut carbon emissions, including, own estate Carbon Trust Multisite Opportunity Assessment Surveys, Green Fleet Review, Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Domestic energy efficiency. Mark highlighted some of the milestones Wyre

Borough Council has now achieved, including achieving Level 2 of National Indicator 188, completing adaptation risk assessments for all service areas and the completion of Local Climate Impact Profiles.

Mark described the successful Cleveleys Sea Defence and Promenade Scheme project and how this had created new sea defences, and also regenerated the whole area for the community.

Mark also described work being done regarding home energy initiatives to insulate homes, and home heating initiatives.

Mark finished his presentation by highlighting to work being done in partnership with Lancashire County Council and in particular Lancashire Energy Officers Group in coordinating activity and sharing home energy efficiency best practice across Lancashire.

The Committee members thanked Councillor Gandhi and Mark Broadhurst for their presentation. County Councillor Susie Charles asked if the presentation could be given to other District Councils, including Lancaster City Council to promote further joint working.

13. Resolved: The Committee noted the presentation.

Protecting vulnerable people from the impacts of climate change – Lancashire County Council - Adult Disability Service

Helen Edmondson presented the report (circulated) and explained that the primary role of the in House Adult Disability service within the Adult and Community Services Directorate is to support the needs of adults with disabilities to live the lives they want by getting involved with their local communities through leisure, learning, employment and housing. They also provide support to carers by offering respite services. Their services provide high quality, specialised, person centred supports as directed by the customer or their family members / carers, via support staff delivering day time supports, within resource centres, short break houses and domiciliary services (24 hour supported living for people in shared tenancies).

Helen stated that they support around 800 people with learning disabilities and around 580 people with physical disabilities.

Helen highlighted some of the risks to the people supported by Adult Disability services such as risks to being exposed to extremes of temperature and risks of slips and falls in icy conditions. Helen also highlighted some of the service business continuity issues involved with supporting the needs of adults with disabilities such as a reduction in the ability of staff to reach people during prolonged periods of ice and snow.

Helen also highlighted what actions the County Council are taking to reduce our vulnerability or increase service resilience such as ensuring individual care plans are in place. The team continue to monitor their business continuity

plans and raise issues and lessons learnt from past experiences with other services and partners to ensure that services remain resilient in the future.

Members of the Committee asked that officers in the Adult Disability Services team be thanked for their work to deliver continuous services, in particular during last winter when extreme weather conditions made service delivery challenging.

- 14. Resolved:** The Committee noted the presentation and asked that officers in the Adult Disability Services team be thanked for their work to deliver continuous services during last winters extreme weather conditions.

Urgent Business

None.

Date of the Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 8 December 2010, 2pm, Cabinet Room 'B', County Hall Complex, Preston.

Ged Fitzgerald
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston