

EFDC GREEN CORPORATE WORKING PARTY MINUTES

DATE: August 17 2010
TIME: 2.30pm
VENUE: The Conference Room, Civic Offices

Chair: Sarah Creitzman (SC)
Attending: Mike Tipping (MT), Mike Warr (MW), Dawn Jolley (DJ), Ann Kossick (AK), Cllr Penny Smith (PS) Tom Carne (TC), Chris Overend (CO), Kassandra Polyzoides (KP)

Minutes: Elizabeth M Thomas (EMT)

Apologies for absence	Action
<p>Lewis McGann (LMG), Ian White (IGW), John de Wilton Preston (JP), Brian Bassington (BB), Jim Nolan (JN),</p> <p>Noted that Paul Hewitt, Countrycare Manager, has left to take up a position with the National Trust.</p>	
<p>Matters arising from last meeting</p> <p>Minutes agreed..</p>	
<p>KloE 3.1 Use of Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KloE 3.1 : EFDC has attained Level 2. Audit Commission is being abolished – more at a later date. 	
<p>Climate Change Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCS: SC to get a focus group together before next GCWP meeting. • Terms of Reference: SC has been studying these. Recommendation to revamp them as they were very specific in the early days. Key aims – to rewrite the climate strategy and monitor and update it. <p>Comments: MT: if the strategy is right, so will the projects that spin off it. KP: asked for strategy to be recirculated with minutes, to help review it. Also we must be sure that it is up to date with new legislation. JP & SC to discuss. Acknowledged that fulfilling statutory obligations and crystallising what we as a council want to achieve are initial objectives. The plan will encompass carbon reduction as well as climate change. MT: Members will ultimately decide strategies. SC: Open to suggestions of what we need to strive towards our goals. KP: We could do benchmarking with other councils to ascertain progress. SC: Compiling a benchmark list and this will be circulated. TC: Suggested we include what we want to encourage the wider community to do in the terms of reference –consult members and senior managers on this. MT: Let's promote Green Days as Lisa used to do, and give talks to as many local groups as possible to spread the word. KP: Let's flag up what we have achieved and things people can do: with incentives. TC: We can make more of grants and benefits for green-friendly activity too. SC: We should also involve Waste & Recycling department in this.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JP SC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SC</p>

<p>MT: Schools too: Essex County Council have a School Awareness green scheme, it's really popular and it introduces kids to the issues at a young age. We could do something that would link to the National Curriculum.</p> <p>MW: Maybe we shouldn't try to be too specific: just say we welcome discussion and action on all green issues.</p> <p>TC: Audit Commission is to be disbanded: let's see what kind of targets their replacement has. Local targets set by ourselves might go well with the Government.</p> <p>CO: Definitely we should be more outward-looking in the community, not just reacting to what central Government says.</p> <p>TC: Look at local issues – water usage, traffic, low rainfall – for a localist approach.</p> <p>KP: Local Enterprise Partnerships might help us- see what their procedures are.</p>	
<p>Travel Plans: Update</p>	
<p>Covered since introduction in September 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff car parking policy • Cycle racks • Showers • Home working • Business travel plans • More public transport for staff concessions. <p>Car park arrangements will be finalised when the last accommodation changes take place (Oct-Nov 2010).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site parking for essential/ designated users will still exist • Car sharers, cyclists, bikers will have priority parking • All staff living in Epping (within 20 minutes of Civic Offices) will not be eligible for a parking stall • Reserved parking spaces will be abolished • Blue Badge Holder spaces will be kept • Hemnall Street Staff will be accommodated for • Parking stall waiting list to be abolished <p>Comments</p> <p>MT: We can't accommodate all staff – e have more officers than spaces! So a policy was worked out around all those who need a car to do their job.</p> <p>PS: It will take some time to bed in, as it's such a car-based culture.</p> <p>TC: Existing staff will retain existing rights and new staff won't expect anything more.</p> <p>CO: Funds for the cycling facilities and showers will come from the O2 staff welfare fund. Works are approved and will tie in with the staff rec room revamp. The travel plan will be reported on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>PS: Cycle pumps will be introduced too outside the Civic Offices, if we get a mayor.</p>	
<p>Green Fleet Review</p>	
<p>SC: I'm meeting Paul Spencer: there is funding for 50 greener driving lessons for staff who need them (ie those who clock up the most business miles).</p> <p>PS: It should be first come first served, the course is excellent and demand should be high.</p> <p>SC: I will raise awareness and look for volunteers.</p> <p>MT: All the fleet drivers should do the course.</p> <p>DJ: If they do, that fact could be keyed into the carbon strategy as a requirement.</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>SC</p>
<p>Renewable training for planning officers</p>	
<p>More next time.</p>	

Renewable energy & feed-in tariff	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC has information sheets for this. • Councils could get involved in feed-in tariffs for renewable energy • Carbon Action Network (CAN) has studied this issue; SC liaised with them. • CAN could give a presentation next time and pool ideas and opinions. • CAN do NI187 surveys, so this would be very beneficial to us. <p>Comments:</p> <p>MT: We could aim for a feed-in scheme this time next year and prepare the budgeting now. There is plenty of study to do – we should see who it could apply to in the wider area.</p> <p>AK: This could be packaged for our housing stock, depending on the refurbishments.</p> <p>DJ: People wouldn't lose the energy they make, they would just feed it into the Grid.</p>	
Any other business	
None	
Date of next meeting	
Next meeting scheduled for September 28 2010, at 2.30pm in Conference Room.	