

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 3A, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON
THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Clay (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
D W Cole

Councillor(s)
A M Cook

Councillor(s)
G J Tanner

Officer(s)

T Nash

C Small

S Woon

Sustainable Development Team Leader

Sustainable Development Officer

Democratic Services Officer

54 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J P Curtice, N J Davies, B H Hopkins and T J Hennegan.

55 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

56 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee held on 14 January, 2015, be approved as a correct record.

57 **SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (PV) UPDATE.**

Tanya Nash, Sustainable Development Team Leader, assisted by Chris Small, Sustainable Development Officer provided a presentation on Solar Photovoltaics (PV).

Tanya Nash offered apologies on behalf of the Chief Operating Officer and Andrew Shaw who were unable to attend.

The presentation detailed:

- Swansea Community Energy and Enterprise Scheme (SCEES);
- General PV Update;
- Community Energy;
- How does it work;
- SCEES;
- How does it work;

- SCEES Buildings;
- Original Scheme;
- Removal of Government Incentives;
- Impact on Solar Community Energy Schemes;
- Implications for SCEES;
- Recent Developments;
- Next Steps; and
- Other Solar PV.

Members congratulated the Officers on their efforts in relation to the work involved in setting up the Community Benefits Society within six weeks and mitigating the reductions in tariffs in relation to the Community Energy Scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services referred to the potential within the Councils' vast housing stock. However, there were difficulties associated with tenancy agreements and tight deadlines which had made it impossible to deliver. As a result, it had been agreed to focus on the Glynn Vivian which was a new build lower energy.

In response to a Member's questions, Officers confirmed that:

- Due to tight deadlines, when selecting buildings the criteria had focussed on physical suitability (e.g. size of roof etc);
- Opportunities existed for PV installation in new build Council houses with retro-fitting over time;
- Whilst initially focussing on target areas, this has now been broadened to Council owned buildings;
- Community Centres were proving problematical in so far as none were facing in the right direction or the roofs were not large enough;
- The first phase will concentrate on buildings that are less high risk;
- Presentations have been made to Swansea Environment Forum. Whilst more promotional work is needed, caution needs to be exercised due to the uncertainty in this area;
- Communities are cautious as there is a lack of trust. The decision of Cabinet to invest was a huge benefit;
- In relation to the output in Wales, the figures are hit and miss, although Swansea is one of the best places to do this;
- The concept of efficiency is a complex one and is often misunderstood. However, no scheme is 100% efficient; and
- Whilst the original brief was to look at the areas that are disadvantaged, this does not preclude people in the Swansea West area who would want to invest.

The Chair urged Members to provide suggestions for sites that may be considered within their wards.

Councillor P M Meara suggested Sketty School as it benefitted from a large, South facing roof.

Members discussed the educational aspects for the next generation and the use of IPADS which detailed energy.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their informative presentation and expressed his appreciation for their work.

RESOLVED that the presentation be **NOTED**.

58 **OVERVIEW OF CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA ENERGY POLICIES. (VERBAL)**

The Chair circulated a paper entitled 'Energy and Climate Change CCS Policy Context' which had been prepared by Tanya Nash, Sustainable Development Team Leader.

The document outlined Energy Policy from a UK Government; Welsh Government and City and County of Swansea viewpoint.

The Chair referred to the recent motion at Council, which detailed the Council's ambition to be fossil fuel free by 2025.

He referred to the threats surrounding the Tidal Bay Lagoon and the division between what Central and Local Government were trying to achieve.

In response to questions regarding the Carbon Reduction Strategy, the Sustainable Development Team Leader confirmed that the Council were ahead of target at the moment, with the likelihood that the carbon reduction target set out in the strategy will be met.

In response to a further question regarding the Climate Local Commitment which had originated two years ago, the Sustainable Development Team Leader stated that had been re-written in order to meet the objectives in the action plan for last year and the action plan would therefore be updated in light of that review. She stated that Swansea was the only Welsh Authority to sign up to the plan.

The Chair referred to the PV agenda which was big part of commercialisation. He stated that becoming fossil free before 2025 would allow the Council to invest profits into local services.

The Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services referred to the major piece of work which is underway looking at the energy strategy and how landfill is managed. There are also savings to be derived from clean energy and the district heating network. She urged Members to contact her should they have any specific issues they feel should be examined.

The Chair thanked the Sustainable Development Team Leader for the briefing note.

RESOLVED that the briefing be noted.

59 **WORK PLAN 2015-2016.**

The Chair referred to the work plan and the two Cabinet Portfolios serviced by the Cabinet Advisory Committee.

He referred to the Cabinet Advisory Committee's role in making useful, concrete contributions to policy development. He stated that one meeting a month would not do either Cabinet Portfolio justice and sought Member views in respect of scheduling further meetings (which could be in the form of Task and Finish Groups or Sub Committees).

Members' stated that they would consider the matter and discuss the issues at a future meeting.

The Chair referred to the Work Plan and the items scheduled for the forthcoming meetings, specifically 10 March, 2016.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) An item on Community Engagement be scheduled for the meeting on 10 March, 2016;
- 2) The Chair liaise with the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services to identify a further topic for discussion.

The meeting ended at 3.20 pm

CHAIR