

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE SPECAIL COMMUNITIES CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 5, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2016 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor R A Clay (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
U C Clay

Councillor(s)
T J Hennegan

Officer(s)

M Nicholls
S Woon
T Shaw

Interim Director of Place
Democratic Services Officer
Energy Manager

Also present:

Councillor A S Lewis (Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services)
Councillor P M Meara
Keith Ross, Frack Free Wales

71 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J E Burtonshaw, D W Cole and N J Davies.

72 **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.

73 **ENERGY STRATEGY.**

Martin Nicholls, Interim Director of Place, assisted by Terri Shaw, Energy Manager, presented the City and County of Swansea Energy Strategy.

The presentation included:

- Why the need for an Energy Strategy?
- Why have an Energy Strategy?
- Why have an Energy Strategy on the agenda today?
- Corporate Vision and Priorities
- Future Generations Act – Public Sector Responsibilities
- Energy Strategy Objectives
- Energy Hierarchy
- Key Elements the Strategy
- What are we already doing at each level of the Hierarchy?
- Where do we go next?
- Where we start moving to future level of the Hierarchy?

- Challenges in delivering the Energy Strategy
- Initial Questions to Cabinet Members?
- Cabinet Advisory Committee Input
- Final Thoughts

The Interim Director of Place stated that the proposals formed a strategy as opposed to a policy and contained an action plan which was not fully populated. Whilst there were elements currently being undertaken (the Welsh Quality Housing Standard) some elements were more difficult to achieve as they involved input from other organisations. Therefore, the strategy would be dealt with on a piecemeal basis as opposed to being considered as a whole.

The Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services stated that there were milestones in certain areas which were very specific, e.g, the requirement to cease using land fill after 2020. Additionally, the Authority made a commitment to be fossil free by 2025.

She stated that areas such as biomass would be worthy of further exploration and suggested that a task and finish group be convened to examine this issue.

Key issues arising from discussions included:

- The issues associated with a previous application for a biomass plant in Swansea docks being rejected by the Planning Committee;
- The benefits of examining other Councils 'green' strategies and energy companies;
- The importance of completing sections of the action plan as opposed to attempting to complete all aspects together;
- The link between the Strategy and Councillors Community Action Plans;
- The benefits of a task and finish groups examining wind farms;
- As the Strategy was cross cutting, other cabinet advisory committees would need to examine areas specific to their portfolios;
- Member input into shaping the Strategy was vital and it was important that all issues were examined, albeit even on an interim basis (such as biomass which has a life expectancy of 20-25 years). Other issues included Solar, Tidal Lagoon and Storage;
- The role of Planning Officers in developing the LDP which would support the Strategy;
- Ensuring that the Strategy did not become 'party political' and was developed with cross party support;
- The 'grow your own' initiative needed to be further developed and linked with other strategies within the Authority;
- Issues identified as 'low priority' within the action plan were often issues which were more challenging to deliver as opposed to not being of importance;
- Further negotiations were required with the Association of British Ports regarding the land surrounding the Docks;
- The frustrations associated with city regions and the need to progress issues in respect of the city centre; and
- Examining the timeline for discussions with the Welsh Government and how this will feed into the Strategy.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their informative presentation.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Task and Finish Groups be established to examine Biomass, Wind Farms, Energy Companies, Smart Meters and Storage;
- b) The membership of the task and finish groups include the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services, the Chair of the Communities CAC, Members and relevant Officers;
- c) The Interim Director of Place circulate details of energy companies to Members of the Committee;
- d) The Interim Director of Place make the relevant linkages with other CAC's and report back to the Committee;
- e) The Interim Director of Place re-define the action plan in respect of issues titled 'low priority'; and
- f) The presentation be noted.

The meeting ended at 3.07 pm

CHAIR