

Cabinet

29th February 2012

Development of Renewable Energy Technologies in County Durham – Scrutiny Review Group



Report of Lorraine O' Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. To present the findings and recommendations of a scrutiny review looking at the environmental, economic and social benefits to County Durham of investing in renewable energy technologies.

Background

2. Its findings are detailed in the attached Executive Summary, which identifies a number of key conclusions and recommendations.
3. A copy of the full report can be found in the Members' Resource Centre, Cabinet Office and in the office of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny.

Service Response

4. The following comments have been received from the Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Service Group.

'The review process has given officers in the Sustainability and Climate Change Team the opportunity to reflect on everything they do and be sure that their priorities are right.

The overall objectives of the report whole heartedly meet the requirements of our carbon emissions reduction targets. The proposed recommendations substantiate the primary position Durham County Council holds within the North East region, in its capacity to develop renewable technologies and promote the awareness of climate change.

The report captures the information presented to Overview and Scrutiny comprehensively, despite the fast changing context nationally. It also fulfils and supports Durham County Councils European INTERREG IVC project which requires a methodical strategic approach to its renewable energy and energy efficient policies. '

Recommendation

5. Cabinet is asked to note the recommendations in the attached report and formulate a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of the recommendations.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

None

Staffing

None

Risk

None

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

An equality impact assessment has been undertaken in respect of the Scrutiny review recommendations

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

The Working Group received feedback from Members of the County Council and the public.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

None

Legal Implications

None