

Item 6c

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
11 October 2005

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor A. Gray (Chairman) and
Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, B. Hall, D.M. Hancock, J.M. Khan, B. Meek
and G. Morgan

In Attendance: Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, J.P. Moran, Mrs. E.M. Paylor,
A. Smith and T. Ward

Apologies: Councillors Mrs. A.M. Fleming, K. Henderson, J.G. Huntington,
J.M. Smith, Mrs. I. Jackson Smith and K. Thompson

OSC(1).21/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

OSC(1).22/05 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 30th August, 2005 and 6th September, 2005 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman. (For copies see file of Minutes).

OSC(1).23/05 ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CURRENT INITIATIVES AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was explained that Ms. K. Johnson, Sustainable Communities Team Leader, and S. McDonald, Energy Officer, were present at the meeting to give a presentation in respect of energy efficiency current practice and forthcoming legislation. (For copy see file of Minutes)

The presentation covered the following: -

- Background to energy efficiency
- The European Performance of Buildings Directive
- Current energy performance in Sedgefield Borough Council buildings
- Opportunities to reduce consumption
- Current efficiency measures
- How the energy rating at Sedgefield Borough Council could be improved
- Conclusions

The Committee was informed that current expenditure for gas and electricity in the Council's large sites was £532,000. This represented a price increase of 40% since 2004. The Council was a high user of electricity and needed to be proactive in relation to energy efficiency.

It was reported that a number of efficiency measures had been introduced by the Council. These measures included:-

- Energy efficiency drives
- Boiler replacements
- Pool covers at Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor Leisure Centres
- Chemical water treatment
- Toilet refurbishment
- Use of green electricity

It was explained that in order to reduce energy consumption the efficient monitoring of energy usage was required. Although Leisure Services department monitored electricity usage within the four Leisure Centres, it was not monitored within all Council buildings. Members were of the opinion that a dedicated officer was required in order to efficiently monitor energy consumption within Council buildings.

The Council's energy rating could also be improved through staff training and awareness raising, energy audit and the use of renewable energy.

Specific reference was made to the European Performance of Buildings Directive which would take effect on the 4th January 2006. It was explained that all businesses with over 1,000 square metres of floor space would be required to produce an Energy Performance Certificate for public display. The Council's large sites would therefore be required to produce a certificate identifying total energy usage and carbon monoxide omissions on a yearly basis. It was pointed out that although there were no statutory requirements relating to energy efficiency, the Council must lead by example and take appropriate action to avoid a poor energy efficiency rating.

Members questioned how the Council could ensure that members of the public were made aware of the need to be energy efficient. It was reported that a number of energy efficiency grants were available to the public. Specific reference was made to the SESAW (Sedgefield Energy Securing Affordable Warmth) grant which was available for cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and boiler replacements.

The Committee was also informed that articles relating to energy efficiency had been published in Inform magazine.

- RECOMMENDED :*
1. *That the Council take appropriate steps to increase energy efficiency in order to make savings wherever possible*
 2. *That Officer roles and responsibilities in respect to energy efficiency, monitoring and consumption be reviewed and clarified in order to ensure efficiencies and savings are made.*

OSC(1).24/05 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

An update was given on the progress of the ongoing Reviews. It was explained that both Reviews were at the end of the review process with final reports being produced.

Members reviewed the current work programme.

It was agreed that an energy efficiency update be given at a future meeting of the Committee.

AGREED:

1. *That a progress report on energy efficiency be included on the Committees work programme*
2. *That the Committee's work programme as outlined in the report be agreed.*

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. L. Walker Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4237

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