

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 25th October 2011
Report of: Head of Planning and Housing
Subject/Title: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study
Portfolio Holder: Cllr David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 This report informs members about the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study, explaining the purpose of the study; the opportunities identified within it; and the implications of its findings for the Cheshire East Local Development Framework (LDF).

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee notes the content of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Government has set targets to deliver 15% of energy from renewable resources by 2020 and reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels.

3.2 The LDF will have an important role to play in promoting the delivery of renewable energy, subject to appropriate safeguards. The LDF should also maximise the energy efficiency of new development across the Borough.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate Change - Health

6.1 The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study provides the background evidence base to be used in the development of policies in the LDF.

- 6.2 The LDF will include policies to promote renewable energy to contribute towards the reduction of CO₂ emissions, which will also have a positive impact on health.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The cost of commissioning the report has been met by the Planning Policy Statement 1: Area Based Grant provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government in order to increase the implementation of renewable energy; and funds from Spatial Planning budget.

8.0 Legal implications (authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 National targets including those in the Climate Change Act (2008); Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009) and Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) set out the Government's commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable resources to 15% by 2020.
- 8.2 The Council is required under Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development; Planning Policy Statement 1 Supplement: Planning and Climate Change and Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy to give consideration to climate change and supporting the delivery of renewable energy to meet the Government's targets for reducing CO₂ and implementing renewable energy when preparing a LDF.
- 8.3 The emerging National Planning Policy Framework also promotes the need for the LDF to consider climate change and renewable energy.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study has been prepared in accordance with the best practice methodology. It is considered that it will provide a sound evidence base for the development of Council policies on renewable energy and will allow the promotion of the renewable energy in appropriate locations.

10.0 Background

- 10.1 Government has set targets to deliver 15% of energy from renewable resources by 2020 and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels.
- 10.2 The LDF will have an important role to play in promoting the delivery of renewable energy, subject to appropriate safeguards. The LDF should also maximise the energy efficiency of new development across the Borough.
- 10.3 The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study has recently been completed. **The study will inform the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies within the LDF. The study assesses the**

feasibility of delivering various types of renewable energy and the total implementable resource, taking account of constraints within the Borough. The renewable energy technologies investigated as part of this work are:

- Wind
- Solar
- Ground, water and air source heat pumps
- Hydropower
- Combined heat and power and district heating
- Biomass energy
- Anaerobic digestion and energy from waste
- Geothermal heating

- 10.4 The research also identifies opportunity areas which could be suitable for the implementation of the renewable energy technologies; along with identification of financial incentives and potential project developers.
- 10.5 Key opportunities identified within the Borough include: district heating within a number of the larger towns in the Borough, including Crewe and Macclesfield; air and ground source heat pumps, particularly in areas off the gas network; solar energy throughout the Borough; anaerobic digestion and biomass particularly in agricultural areas; and wind power of various scales throughout the Borough.
- 10.6 The study highlights the significant opportunities that exist for communities to identify and progress renewable energy schemes, which can have numerous community benefits.
- 10.7 The study then identifies potential planning policies which could be included within the LDF to ensure new development is energy efficient and promote the implementation of renewable energy across the Borough.
- 10.8 The study also contains suggestions put forward by the consultants as to how the Council could increase the uptake of renewable energy (Section 7 of the Report). These recommendations will be considered by the Council as it develops its policies on renewable energy.
- 10.9 The study can be accessed on the Cheshire East Council website at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning/spatial_planning/research_and_evidence.aspx

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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