

**Response to Notice of Motion No. 16 – Establishment of a
Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Board**

Purpose of Report

1. To respond to the Motion to establish a new Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Board.

Background

2. By signing the Climate Local commitment on 16 September 2014, <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate-local-wiltshire-council-initiative.pdf> Cabinet recognises that the council has an important role to help residents and businesses capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment.
3. In signing the commitment, Cabinet recognises the diverse role of the council as a community leader, service provider and estate manager and has published an action plan (<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate-local-initiative-action-plan.pdf>) setting out the council's wide-ranging commitments.

Main Considerations for the Council

4. The council's ECO Board, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste, currently oversees the council's actions on energy resilience. There is no equivalent partnership structure to coordinate all energy resilience activity for the county, although existing partnerships such as the Local Nature Partnership have touched on aspects of such activity in the past.
5. Given limited resources and the number of partnerships already in existence, it would be appropriate for the council to demonstrate its community leadership role on energy resilience by initially engaging with partners through discussions at existing partnership meetings.
6. The council is currently developing an Energy Resilience Plan for the county which will set out its approach to maximising energy resilience in Wiltshire. The development of this plan offers the opportunity to engage with key partners in the public, private and third sectors to encourage them to play their part in Wiltshire's low carbon future. Through this work, the council will be able to

gauge the appetite of partners for setting up a new Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Board or developing this function through an existing partnership.

7. At its meeting on 16 September 2014, Cabinet resolved to note council activity to tackle fuel poverty and promote low carbon technologies and encouraged further public engagement on this matter through the Area Boards. Therefore, a programme of presentations will be delivered to Area Boards over the coming months to raise awareness of the council's work in each community area and encourage communities to also play their part.

Conclusion

8. In view of the council's commitment as a community leader and given the opportunity presented by the development of a new Energy Resilience Plan for Wiltshire, a sustained programme of engagement could be developed and delivered over the coming six months to maximise engagement by partners on this topic. This could be done through the Area Boards and existing partnerships as appropriate, and their appetite for a new Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Board gauged in the process.

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