

Sustainability Committee

SC(3)01-07 (p2): 20 September 2007

Proposed Terms of Reference for the Committee's Inquiry into Carbon Reduction in Wales

Purpose

1. This paper puts forward suggested terms of reference for the Committee's first scrutiny inquiry into carbon reduction in Wales. 2. Members are invited to agree the terms of reference, the proposed project plan at Annex A and the proposed list of witnesses for the first topic of the inquiry at Annex B.

Background

3. At its meeting on 12 July, the Committee agreed to investigate carbon reduction in Wales as its first inquiry. 4. A scoping paper, outlining the background to and some of the issues for carbon reduction in Wales is paper 2 for this meeting.

Proposed terms of reference

5. To scrutinise the Welsh Assembly Government on its progress in contributing to the UK's carbon reduction targets and its proposals for meeting the 3% per year carbon reduction target for Wales contained in the One Wales document. The inquiry will focus on the following topic areas:

Residential carbon reduction
Carbon reduction by transport
Carbon reduction by industry and public bodies
Carbon reduction from electricity generation (including renewable energy)
Rural land use management and carbon reduction
The role of the planning system in carbon reduction

It is proposed that a written consultation is carried out at the start of the inquiry into each topic area.

Recommendation

6. That the Committee approves the proposed terms of reference, the proposed project plan at Annex A and the proposed list of witnesses at Annex B. **Contact: Virginia Hawkins - -Committee Clerk - 8409**

Annex A

Proposed detailed project plan for the Sustainability Committee's Inquiry into Carbon Reduction in Wales

It is proposed that the Committee conducts the carbon reduction inquiry as a series of topic inquiries, each following on from the other with the relevant Minister being scrutinised at the end of each topic. The results of each topic inquiry would then be pulled together to form the Committee's final report and recommendations.

Proposed timescale for the autumn term 2007

Thursday 20 September Agree terms of reference and discuss scoping paper
Thursday 4 October Strategic view of carbon reduction in the UK and Wales - The Environment Agency, The Carbon Trust, The Energy Saving Trust

1st topic - Residential carbon reduction

Thursday 11 October, Thursday 18 October, Thursday 22 October Evidence from stakeholders in Wales about how the Welsh Assembly Government is using its existing powers to encourage carbon reduction, what more they could do with their existing powers and any thoughts on how increased powers could be used. Evidence of good practice from the UK and Europe.
Thursday 8 November Scrutiny of the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing on the evidence heard by the Committee
Thursday 15 November Evaluation of the process to date and discussion of the Committee's recommendations on the first topic

Start of CR 2nd topic - Carbon reduction by Transport

Thursday 22 November, Thursday 29 November, Thursday 6 December Formal agreement of the Committee's report and recommendations on the first topic
Evidence from stakeholders in Wales about how the Welsh Assembly Government is using its existing powers to encourage carbon reduction, what more they could do with their existing powers and any thoughts on how increased powers could be used. Evidence of good practice from the UK and Europe.
Thursday 13 December Scrutiny of the Deputy First Minister

and Minister for the Economy and Transport on the evidence heard by the Committee 17 December -11 January - Recess. Thursday 17 January Discussion of the Committee's recommendations on the second topic

Start of CR 3rd topic - Carbon reduction by industry and public bodies

Thursday 24 January Formal agreement of the Committee's report and recommendations on the second topic Start topic - timescale for this topic not yet determined.

4th topic - Carbon reduction by the energy production industry (to include renewable energy production)

To follow on from the conclusion of the 3rd topic.

5th topic - Rural land use management and carbon reduction

To follow on from the conclusion of the 4th topic (may only need 1 or 2 meetings)

6th topic - Carbon reduction through the planning system

To follow on from the conclusion of the 5th topic (may only need 1 or 2 meetings) It is envisaged that the next 2 or 3 meetings can be used to review the evidence and identify and hear evidence from any person or organisation who has been 'missed' from the topic areas. It is hoped that the final report and recommendations will be agreed by the Committee by the start of the summer term.

Annex B

Proposed witnesses for the first topic (Residential)

Wales Environment Link
Centre for Alternative Technology
Friends of the Earth Cymru
Home Builders Association
WLGA
Community Housing Cymru
Energy Saving Trust Wales Energy Retailers Association (smart metering)
London Borough of Merton (sustainable planning)
Alan Jones (London Climate Change Agency, London Assembly)
Environmental Change Institute Oxford University
The Sustainable Building Association