

31st May 2012

Agenda Item: 9

**REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER WASTE AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT
DISSOLUTION OF NEWARK AND SHERWOOD ENERGY AGENCY**

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree to the dissolution of the Newark and Sherwood Energy Agency

Information and Advice

2. The Newark and Sherwood Energy Agency was established in 1997 as a partnership between the County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council to provide energy advice to its constituent authorities and the communities that they serve. In July 2003 the County Council's Cabinet approved the establishment of an autonomous management board for the Energy Agency, with 3 elected Member representatives from each of the two local authorities; financial management and secretariat being provided by the district council. This arrangement was required to secure EU funding available at the time and coincided with the adoption of a revised constitution and terms of reference for the Agency.
3. Following a recent review of the Agency and consultation with the Board, it was agreed that the current arrangements were no longer fit for purpose and hence formal approval is now sought to terminate the Agency, leading to savings in officer and Member time, and from removing the requirement for payment for an external audit. It is noted that Newark and Sherwood District Council obtained Cabinet approval on 1 March 2012, which agreed that:
 - approval be granted for the Energy Agency Board to remain in being from 1st April 2012 purely to complete the accounts for 2011/12 and for the Energy Agency Board to be formally dissolved with effect from 30 September 2012 and
 - approval be granted for the Energy Agency budget to be incorporated into the Council's Energy Services budget with effect from 1st April 2012 and for the replacement reporting structure to be to the Director, Customers and liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development and Regeneration.

Other Options Considered

4. The option to continue as 'business as usual' was considered, but rejected as the resources required to maintain the Agency were considered no longer justifiable given its role had evolved into what was in effect a forum for sharing and developing practice around sustainable energy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

That approval be granted for the Energy Agency Board to remain in being from 1st April 2012 purely to complete the accounts for 2011/12 and for the Energy Agency Board to be formally dissolved with effect from 30 September 2012.

Mick Allen
Group manager, waste and energy management

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Phil Keynes, team manager, energy and carbon management 0115 9774623

Constitutional Comments [CEH 16/05/12]

The recommendation falls within the remit of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Financial Comments [MA 18/04/12]

The accountable body for the Board was Newark & Sherwood District Council and there are no financial implications for NCC, apart from savings in Member and Officer time.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All