



## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**26 JULY 2011**

### **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **- PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

#### **BACKGROUND**

3. Since the last update to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 21 June and 20 July 2011. Reports submitted to those meetings were as follows:

##### **21 June 2011**

- Overview of Environment Service Area: Presentation on main areas of work and service responsibilities.
- Work Programme 2011-12: Consideration of the panel's work programme for the new municipal year.

##### **20 July 2011**

- Introduction/overview of new scrutiny topic - Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

4. The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (RHIS) is due to commence in summer 2011. It is aimed at meeting carbon emissions targets, stimulating the renewable sector and reducing dependence on fossil and foreign fuels. In the first phase, long-term tariff support will be targeted in the non-domestic sectors, at the big heat users - the industrial, business and public sector - which contribute 38% of the UK's carbon emissions.
5. The scrutiny panel is to investigate the implications of the RHIS for the Council.

**COUNCILLOR BOB KERR**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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