



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

7 FEBRUARY 2012

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 once, on 16 January 2012.
4. At that meeting, Members considered reports in respect of the following:
 - a) Energy Reduction - The panel considered an update following its 2010 examination of this topic. Information was submitted regarding current energy usage across all departments and buildings; how monitoring is undertaken; actions being taken to reduce energy usage; and related information in respect of carbon reduction.
 - b) Renewable Heat Incentive - Members considered an update following the report submitted to the panel in July 2011. The current position is that full details of the scheme (which is essentially a payment scheme for producing heat from renewable sources such as biomass boilers) are still to be finalised by the Government. Clarification is also awaited in respect of the domestic element of the scheme.

5. At its next meeting, on 9 February 2012, the panel will consider a draft final report on the previous scrutiny topic of highway and carriageway works by the utilities companies.

COUNCILLOR BOB KERR

CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

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