

## **CABINET – 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

### **EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

#### **ECO-TOWNS (PENNBURY)**

The Commission considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the County Council's response to the Government's first (end of June) consultation deadline for comments on its 'eco-town' proposals and consideration of how scrutiny might wish to contribute to the assessment of the proposals in detail. A copy of the report marked 'E' is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Galton CC having declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in this matter as a member of the Campaign Against the Strategic Eco Town (CASSET) did not take part in the discussion but remained to observe the meeting from the public gallery.

Messrs Bown CC, Legrys CC, Fraser CC, and Snartt CC, who were members of the Development Control and Regulatory Board withdrew from the meeting.

The Chairman, Dr. O'Callaghan CC, advised that he would not be commenting on the proposals until more detailed information on the proposals became available.

In the course of the discussion members of the Commission:-

- a) expressed concerns about the 'eco-town process' particularly its total disregard for established planning procedures and, in particular, that the identification of sites at a national level has failed to recognise the key role local authorities and local communities have in identifying the most appropriate locations within their areas.
- b) Supported the call to the Government to extend the October deadline by at least 6 months to allow the Co-op to develop its proposals further and for the County Council and other stakeholders to complete their assessments.
- c) Expressed their support for the proposed response outlined in the report but were of the view that it should also to draw attention to the fact that the proposals would also have an impact on adjoining areas within the County and City, something which can not be determined due to the paucity of information. A view was also

expressed that the response should include reference to the potential implication on other services not listed in paragraph 30 in particular youth services and post 16 education and training provision.

#### RESOLVED

That the Cabinet be advised that the Commission intends to establish a five member panel to consider in detail the proposals being put forward for the development of an 'eco-town' with a view to obtaining a better understanding of the issues and impact of the proposal both in terms of the impact on the immediate area and those areas adjacent to the proposed development.