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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 16th and 17th October 2008

1. Introduction

This report is aimed at informing the Executive Committee to the work carried out by the Sustainable Development Team after the North Sea Commission General Assembly in June 2008.

2. SDG Chair, Vice – Chairs and Adviser

Chair: Cllr John Lamb, East of England Regional Assembly
V.Chairs 1) Cllr Henrik Ringbæk Madsen, Nordjyllands Amt, Denmark
2) Vacant
Adviser Yasa Ratnayeke, Aberdeen City Council

It was noted at the SDG meeting on the 25th of September in Tromsø that there are three nominations being put forward to this meeting and they are:

- Cllr. Ellen Solheim, Rogaland fylkeskommune
- Cllr. Helge Kolstad, Østfold fylkeskommune
- Cllr. Helge Jansen, Schleswig-Holstein

The Group welcomes all the nomination and especially from Cllr Helge Jansen, Schleswig – Holstein and would recommend to the Executive Committee that he is selected as the Vice Chair as the group requires representation from our German Members.

The Group was also informed by Yasa Ratnayeke (Adviser) that he will be stepping down from March 2009 (After the next Executive Meeting) due to new additional work commitments and that he will work with the new Adviser till after the June General Assembly. Here again the group spoke at length and suggested that the Chair inform the Executive Committee that all members present at the SDG meeting in Tromsø would like to see Maria Johansen, Troms fylkeskommune/ Troms County Council, take on the role from March 2009 as there will be continuation within the group. Final approval is needed from Troms County Council. However the group is open to other nominees.

3. Work Plan and Activities

The work plan was updated and the group have decided to focus on Energy and feed directly into the CPMR Energy Group through Cllr Kevan Lim, who is the NSC



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Representative on the CPMR Energy Group. This will give the group a topic to focus on and will also help raise the profile of this group. As you will know the various legislative proposals included in the Energy & Climate Change Package are following their course through the European Parliament.

The various reports which have recently been approved (Turmes, Ek...) are still awaiting translation and publication, and I am proud to say that a number of the amendments which we proposed by this group have been included.

The Group will also take up other Sustainable issues from time to time but will concentrate on Energy and **NOW SEEK THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL TO DO SO.**

3.1 The Build with CaRe Project

- The above project has been approved by the North Sea Programme (Interreg 4b) and is made up of partners from Germany, Sweden, England, Belgium, The Netherlands and Scotland.
- The project's aim is to mainstream energy-efficiency in building design. It will take necessary steps, in collaboration with the building sector, to develop a transnational strategy for increasing energy efficiency in buildings. The core message being that energy efficiency is no longer an "if-question", but a "how-question". This means the project aims to change behavior in the complete building chain (From Consumer to Planner, from Carpenter to Architect).
- The project will engage national and regional policy makers, influencing EU, national, regional and local policy developments and help deliver regional energy-efficiency strategies. This project can make a major contribution to emerging national and EU strategy where new policy measures are implemented, tested and evaluated

The Sustainable Development Group will be shadowing this project and their first Project meeting is on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2008.

3.2 Maritime Policy Pilot Project

The Group welcomed this paper prepared for the Executive Committee and decided that the group should work on point 5 which is Action on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change. However the members very quickly pointed out that if the Executive Committee wanted to develop this paper into a project, time from Officers will be a problem as none of them have any extra time to spare. They were all very cautious as well as to where the match funding was going to come from.



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4 Next Meeting

The Chair very kindly has agreed to host the next meeting. The meeting will be in South – End on the 15th and 16th of January and members of the Executive Committee are welcomed to attend and contribute to the meeting.