

MINUTES CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

22 AUGUST 2024

PRESENT:

Members of the Working Group: Councillors Livesey (Chair), McKenzie (substituting for Councillor Edwards), Roodhouse, Willis.

Officers: Dan Green (Deputy Chief Executive), Claire Waleczek (Democratic and Support Services Manager), Lucy Kirbyshire (Democratic Services Officer)

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

RESOLVED THAT - Councillor Livesey be appointed Chair of the Working Group for the 2024/25 municipal year.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024 were approved by the Chair.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daly, Edwards, Harrington and Henderson.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Livesey - non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.

Councillor Roodhouse - non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of giving advice to the EcoHub Project.

Councillor McKenzie non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a subscriber to GreenPeace.

Councillor Willis non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being the Chair of the Wolston and Brandon Joint Flood Action Group.

Councillor McKenzie non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a member of some non-local windfarms.

5. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Group considered agenda item no. 5 concerning its terms of reference for 2024/25.

The Working Group agreed that:

- a) The Deputy Chief Executive revise the Terms of Reference considering the working group's comments made during discussion;
- b) The Deputy Chief Executive develops a forward plan that linked with the economic strategy for the next meeting of the working group;
- c) The Deputy Chief Executive establishes an Officer group to assess the progress of projects emerging from the working group;
- d) an invitation to a future meeting be extended to a representative from the Local Resilience Forum; and
- e) the Deputy Chief Executive investigates the Flood Relief Funding from Warwickshire County Council.

6. VISIT TO TYSELEY ENERGY PLANT

The Chair of the Working Group provided a verbal briefing on a potential site tour for Tyseley Energy Park in Birmingham to visit the site and understand their climate change adaptation strategy.

The Fraser Group site within the Borough was also discussed as a location to visit, due to the work done on the battery generator which should be powering all of Coventry's electric buses.

RESOLVED THAT – the Deputy Chief Executive liaise with Tyseley to arrange potential dates for a visit and liaise with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to arrange a joint visit to the Frasers site prior to the application going to planning committee in October.

7. CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

The Working Group considered agenda item no. 7 concerning the Climate Risk Assessment and Action Plan.

The Deputy Chief Executive discussed the need to start adapting to climate change, with the Council acting as support within the Borough. Sustainability West Midlands was commissioned to complete the risk assessment and

action plan, and engaged with Councillors, Officers and voluntary groups. The presentation of the data and the audience of the document were raised, with the need for a strong communications strategy being identified.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (a) the recommendation be approved;
- (b) the Deputy Chief Executive to add the report to the Council's Forward Plan;
- (c) a communications plan be developed highlighting the key messages contained within both the Risk Assessment and Action Plan.

8. CLIMATE THEMED EVENTS

The Working Group considered item no. 8 concerning Climate Themed Events.

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Working Group of the planned climate change adaptation event occurring in November 2024, where the goal was to encourage the discussion of climate change without the repetition of the same ideas. The potential for school children to be engaged was raised, with a young leaders programme being suggested.

The Deputy Chief Executive discussed the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum and the climate themed events scheduled to be held there such as the Fire and Ice Exhibit demonstrating the impacts of climate change. The need for Communications support on branding for these events was key, especially with the timely nature of COP-29.

Future climate themed events were walks around biodiversity sites around November and a Rugby Autumn Watch event.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendation be approved subject to:

- (a) increased funding up to £10,000;
- (b) the inclusion of 5 Acres Community Farm as a stakeholder;
- (c) future climate themed events to be discussed at a future meeting.

9. RUGBY ECOHUB

The Working Group considered agenda item no. 9 concerning the proposal from the Rugby EcoHub.

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced the proposal for funding the Rugby EcoHub as a 12 month pilot scheme, where the EcoHub would be encouraged to find alternative funding streams in that time.

RESOLVED THAT – the allocation of funding for the EcoHub be agreed subject to paragraph 4 and a confirmation meeting with the Section 151 Officer at a meeting of the Working Group over Teams in the next few days.

10. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Working Party agreed that future meeting dates be confirmed by email.

CHAIR