

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 19th January 2023, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected, Climate Partnership
Vice Chair Cllr Gill Wood	Wirral BC, Climate Partnership
Archie McCluskey	LCRCA, Environment Officer
Elinor Bridges	LCRCA, Management Graduate
Rachel Waggett	LCRCA, Principal Environment Officer (meeting admin)
Matt Ellis	Environment Agency
Megan Bennett	Knowsley BC, Climate Emergency Officer
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Nick Thompson	CPRE – The Countryside Charity, Sefton Coastal Landscape Partnership
Luke Biffal	Regeneration Project Manager, Wirral BC
Mandi Cragg	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, Sustainability Project Lead
Annie Merry	Faiths4Change, Friends of the Earth
Mike Cockburn	Wirral BC, Assistant Director for Parks & Environment
Peter Owen	Energy Project Plus, Cool Wirral Partnership
Stephen Sykes	2030hub, Merseyside Environmental Trust, St Helens Climate Change Commission
Paul Nolan	Mersey Forest
Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral BC

Apologies received from:

Michèle Grey	Knowsley BC
Lucy Northey	Wirral BC
Cllr Laura Robertson Collins	Liverpool CC
Don Naylor	Friends of the Earth

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

GBT (Gideon Ben-Tovim) welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves as above.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest noted.

3. Notes of last meeting for agreement

Minutes from previous meeting agreed.

4. Matters arising

NC (Nicky Crosby) raised in chat that meeting minutes have not been updated online since July.

5. Discussion of LCR Five Year Action Plan draft

Introduction to Plan

GBT thanks RW (Rachel Waggett) for action plan work, and introduced plan for discussion. RW shared draft of Five Year Action Plan on screen and RW and GBT invited group to share comments. RW highlighted following points:

- Actions have now been taken from previously seen spreadsheet drafts.
- Covered how original action lists were formed through stakeholder workshops hosted by Arup
- Noted that changes have been made since last viewing, including some actions have been merged and separated
- We have been through one iteration of comments made on individual actions that were shared on the excel document
- Design of the Action Plan uses elements from Pathway to Net Zero document to maintain same visual language moving forwards
- We expect readership of Five Year Plan may differ from that of Pathway document as it is much more detailed with technical annexes
- We are redesigning our webpages to accommodate the new content
- The document still contains considerable gaps and is evolving daily as we incorporate comments, some of the wording will be changed so unless there are errors no need to worry about this too much
- Described the different sections of the plan, including foreword which summarises Net Zero journey to date, a section on keeping up our momentum, and a section on acting together, understanding that Local Authorities have different strengths and learning lessons from each other. MW noted that St Helens have commented on the plan and will discuss how to ensure a 'golden thread' running through it all. RW noted that LAs are contributing greatly to the plan
- RW said there is a section in plan on CA's own emissions, and emphasised that the document contains actions to reduce emissions of LCR as a whole without neglecting our own carbon footprint
- Reiterating actions from Pathway document about restoring natural carbon sources, reducing energy use by half and capturing the small amount of carbon we can't remove in other ways

Comments on Action Plan Context Section

- NC suggested that it is difficult for the CA, as leaders in the community, to phrase that everyone will have to take action while avoiding implication that it is the individual's responsibility and must acknowledge leadership role of councils and governments. RW encouraged submission of any suggested wording to climate inbox.
- NC emphasised that people can't take the required action individually and Government, LAs and CA need to lead and support, and this needs to be emphasised. RW acknowledged balance and clarified that even low-consuming citizens are not passive in this process.
- AM shared suggestion from Don Naylor that slides 3 and 4 need to recognise that while this is about the CA and LAs, this has to be a journey we go on together, and suggested comments throughout document by community members.
- AM felt that her previous comments were not incorporated, and commented on the 'top heavy' nature of the document with it's CA and LA approach and how to balance this with everyone working together.
- AM suggested plan should be shared more widely for consultation so that others eg. voluntary sector could identify actions they are leading on, with further workshops. Peter Owen (PO) agreed.
- AM emphasised that finding ways to empower people to take action at all stratum will make it easier to reach Net Zero. AM noted that DN agreed that working together needs to come through more.

- AM summarised points from DN, including that Liverpool is and sees itself as a global city, therefore more ambitious language could be included and we could be bold about tackling fossil fuel companies.
- NT (Nick Thompson) suggested that there are four parties involved: population, LCR, LAs, and government, and this relationship could be stressed more.
- LG (Cllr Liz Grey) thanked RW and team for work, and asked for clarification of the scope and remit of document, along with who will be scrutinising it at the start.
- LG, RW, and NT made further comments about the balance between creating optimism and impetus for change.

Comments on Action Plan Data Section

RW explained what is included in the data pages and highlighted that this section is still in progress. RW explained that the goal is to help people understand that progress at the current rate will not be adequate to reach net zero goals.

- NC said that she needed a clearer communication of how the carbon budgeting fits into the graphs on slides 10 and 11, and believes there is a missed opportunity to communicate urgency. She raised issue of emphasising energy reduction and ensuring this is done fairly. RW responded that a lot of data is still emerging and direction and speed more important than specific values in order to prevent delay.
- AM commented on the 'Mind the Gap' slide, asking for greater codesign, which is aligned with DN's (absent) comments. AM also requested greater detail on which emissions are excluded on slide 10 and why to help us understand what is within the picture on Net Zero. SS noted that including remit is standard for carbon footprint reports.
- LG requested we be as graphic as possible about the gap between where we need to be and are, and to use this as an opportunity to educate that if change is made now the changes will be less disruptive later, to avoid a bad legacy for the future. RW acknowledged that the challenge is to make changes seem positive rather than scary. NT and RW reiterated the difficulty of ensuring balance of message is inspiring rather than doom and gloom.

Comments on Action Lists

RW explained that cross-cutting actions section still in progress and talked through the data presented.

RW explained the introductory sections for the actions on clean energy, emphasising that these are CA action, and an action on heat networks is under review. RW covered buildings introduction and explained that the data shows focus needs to be on gas heating in the home.

- PO commented that a challenge is explaining who is expected to take action. Suggested community energy sector and community advice sector be added as stakeholders. RW agreed.
- Stephen Sykes (SS) requested data source to be included

RW outlined industry actions, which CA does not have strong influence on, and explained difficulties with measurement of emissions in the LCR and addressing industrial energy usage in five year period.

- AM suggested trade unions be listed as partners. RW agreed.

RW explained the context surrounding the Natural Environment action lists, and how these are primarily actions that deliver co-benefits rather than carbon reduction. RE covered the Importance of working with agricultural community on this.

RW highlighted that, in transport, it is privately owned cars that are producing most carbon emissions, and it is difficult to ask people to transition from high mileage in personal cars. RW explained that many of these actions are local actions that CA can support.

- NT noted that 'Role' column doesn't mention regulate or incentivise, and authorities could do more in this area by taking a 'carrot and stick' approach. NT highlighted difficulty of engaging with such a complex document. RW highlighted that CA cannot do much in terms of regulation, but can incentivise.
- MG (Mandi Cragg) shared some of the ongoing work by local NHS Trusts and highlighted need to ensure work is not 'silo-ed' and there is collaboration between organisations.
- NT suggested regulation through planning process as a potential option for increasing solar panels. RW responded that building regulations are a national issue.
- MB thanked RW for work on the document.
- AM requested specification of green hydrogen, not just fossil hydrogen, on page 20. AM also asked using chat function if there be guarantees of safe CO2 sequestration for perpetuity & if so how, regarding Enis Liverpool Bay CCS. AM also asked for clarification of no hydrogen for heating, and suggested addition of faith communities to be included on page 26 due to ownership of 1000s of buildings with net zero plans.
- AM added more points using chat function. AM enquired about whether roles of LCR based operators in North American biomass can be disregarded on p36 if justice is key throughout. Regarding page 40, AM asked CA to be aware of possible negative pollution impacts of Freeport dredging and referred the group to Ian Byrne's question to parliament. AM requested addition of communities to stakeholders on page 45, and expressed need to reference community buy in
- MG noted in chat function that NHS should be a key stakeholder in the transport section
- AM queried whether CA could work with Church of England, which is currently working on decarbonising essential travel for a Net Zero target of 2030.
- MG added that NHS is working had on encouraging staff and patients to take active travel and public transport options, and reiterated need to work together.

Final Comments

RW emphasised the importance of ensuring that we get the correct trade off when considering actions and timing, as action is now urgent. RW reminded attendees that remaining comments to be sent by email, and outlined proposed monitoring strategy of quarterly monitoring and annual updates on the website, along with annual refreshing of document to keep it relevant to new opportunities.

- GBT hoped other partners will be aligned with actions, and noted that perhaps actions of partners can be built in over time.
- RW explained that there will be another chance to comment before the document is finalised, hopefully at next meeting.

6. AOB

None.

7. Next Meetings

4pm Thursday 16th February 2023

4pm Thursday 30th March 2023