

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 16th June 2022, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected/ Climate Partnership
Vice Chair Cllr. Gill Wood	Climate Partnership/ Combined Authority/Growth Hub
Sean Maher	Liverpool City Region CA, Environment Officer
Don Naylor	Friends of the Earth
Nick Thompson	CPRE The Countryside Charity
Rachel Waggett	Liverpool City Region CA, Principal Environment Officer (meeting admin)
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Peter Owen	Energy Projects Plus
Racheal Jones	One Knowsley
Cllr Laura Robertson-Collins	Liverpool City Council
Tracy Gordon	Liverpool City Region CA, Lead Officer - Housing Partnerships
Mike Cockburn	Wirral Council
John Mellors	Liverpool City Region CA, Environment Officer
Carl Beer	Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)
Matt Ellis	Environment Agency
Mark Knowles	Liverpool City Region CA
Colm Bowe	Liverpool John Moores University
Ashley Bennington	Environment Agency
Caroline Holmes	Knowsley Council
Cllr Phil Harris	Halton BC

Apologies received from:

Stephen Sykes	Merseyside Environment Trust/2030 Hub
Ian Leivesley	Halton Borough Council
Bridget Guilfoyle	Plus Dane
Claire Jones	PCS
James McKenna	TUC
Lucy Northey	Wirral Council
Becky Jones	GB Partnerships/Health & Care Partnership (NHS)
James Coe	University of Liverpool

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

Gideon Ben-Tovim welcomed all attendees to the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance. All attendees introduced themselves as shown on the attendees list. There were some apologies also as listed.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest noted.

3. Notes of last meeting for agreement

<p>Don Naylor highlighted an error on the date of the last meeting minutes. Rachel Waggett thanked Don for raising and confirmed this would be rectified.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>4. Matters arising</p>	
<p>a. Community Environment Fund</p>	
<p>Tracy Gordon confirmed all bids have now been through the initial internal scoring phase. Members of the partnership who volunteered to assist are now assessing the ‘borderline’ projects. This process is on course to be completed by the end of June, meaning successful groups can be informed in the first week of July. Overall there have been a large amount of really good bids, so a lot of work has gone into ensuring the best ones are selected. TG confirmed a breakdown on the types of groups awarded funding will be shared in due course once scoring is completed.</p>	
<p>Gideon Ben-Tovim thanked those CA officers & volunteers from the partnership who have worked on the fund.</p>	
<p>Cllr Harris said he didn’t volunteer to score as he was aware of bids submitted by Halton BC, so deemed it would not be appropriate.</p>	
<p>b. 5 Year Climate Action Plan</p>	
<p>Rachel Waggett confirmed Arup have been appointed as the new consultants to take forward to development of the 5 Year Climate Action Plan. Arup have worked with the Combined Authority on numerous projects previously, but this time they will be providing their specialist carbon team who will be able to provide expert insight into several areas including Energy, Transport & Retrofit. An initial inception meeting has taken place and now work is underway to develop the delivery schedule & stakeholder engagement strategy, which will include conversations with members of the partnership as well as wider stakeholders.</p>	
<p>GBT thanked RW for the update and said he looked forward to meeting the new colleagues at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Carl Beer highlighted that Arup also have some Circular Economy specialists and hoped they would be utilised as part of the Plan’s development. RW said she would take that onboard.</p>	
<p>c. Retrofit Funding</p>	
<p>Tracy Gordon said that the European Regional Development Funding is due to end next year, and that means that no new projects can be forthcoming. However, some underspend within the programme has meant the Liverpool City Region has been awarded an extra £4.51m to undertake further retrofitting work on existing social housing projects. Approval has just been provided to bring this work in house to the CA due to staffing resources at Local Authority level, and will allow retrofitting of a further 500 homes. TG confirmed that her team is open to any other underspend opportunities which may arise.</p>	
<p>TG also confirmed a contract has been signed with a delivery agent to support a “Solar Together” scheme to allow households to purchase photovoltaics (solar panels). This will be offered to the “able to pay” market, as whilst the CA’s work has traditionally focussed on those in fuel poverty, to reach net zero requires buy-in from everyone. The scheme will be launched in the Autumn and TG said she would welcome partnership members to promote through their networks.</p>	
<p>Nick Thompson asked how the CA is intending to spend the £4.51m and what process is in place to determine its allocation. TG confirmed it can only go to social housing/housing</p>	

RW

All to note

associations. There was an Expression of Interest stage with all housing associations and the bids required an element of innovation, with 4 bids selected from a shortlist of 8, based on their deliverability within the timescale. TG could not yet reveal which ones have been selected due to legal agreements but would be happy to share in due course.

A further round of Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding is due to be launched in August, with a pot of between £700-£800m available nationally. The same process will be followed for this funding to support housing associations but is more likely to be targeted at the smaller ones as the larger ones will go direct.

Nicky Crosby referred to the notes of the previous meeting which stated the circulation of a report from the Wirral Low Carbon Buildings Taskforce. Mike Cockburn confirmed that the Cool Wirral Partnership have commissioned that work and it has now been completed. The facilitator of the report is due to provide an update at the next Cool Wirral Partnership meeting and it should then be available shortly after. MC highlighted that there are key regional aspects to the report which makes circulation with partnership members important.

MC

Cllr Phil Harris observed that even the additional money is not sufficient to actually what is required. Halton has around 35k properties that require work to reach the minimum standard, but only 700 are currently set for investment. Cllr Harris said that a much greater commitment from government is required.

d. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Gideon Ben-Tovim provided an update on the work he is involved in regarding the UKSPF which is replacing the previous EU funding schemes. GBT attended the first Local Partnership Group meeting, representing the Nature & Environment Sector. One of the sections highlighted was around Communities & Place, which included Greenspaces. GBT said he championed for this to be a higher priority and to receive more funding, as well as the need for net zero to be a consideration throughout the package.

Sean Maher added he is part of an internal working group which is looking at how best to disperse the allocation of funding, and part of that process involves understanding how best to incorporate net zero as a “gateway”. There is currently an engagement process taking place with stakeholders, and there are several sessions being run by CA colleagues based around 3 main areas; Supporting People & Skills, Supporting Local Business & Community and Place which members can sign up to. SM reinforced GBTs earlier point around the Community & Place session being of particular interest. SM had already circulated the links.

All to note

**5. Climate Partnership revised Terms of Reference – Rachel Waggett, LCR
Combined Authority**

Rachel Waggett said there hadn’t been many changes to the terms of reference, and cited the small number of comments received had been responded to. One of the most important changes has been to give the partnership a greater role in commenting on the CA’s community & stakeholder engagement. The Climate Panel is not something that has been particularly successful, partly due to the need to manage this remotely. This feeds into a wider conversation around the CA works with communities on numerous levels. This could take the form of a workstream for the partnership and considered at a future meeting, in collaboration with the CA’s engagement team. GBT requested this to be noted.

RW

Nicky Crosby highlighted the third responsibility of the partnership contained in the terms of reference which is understand how to engage with the widest possible set of stakeholders,

pointing in particular to a the need to have a conversation around the role of the Climate Panel sooner rather than later (as referenced in the previous meetings minutes) .

RW also added minutes & presentations from the partnership meetings will now be added onto the CA website. Draft notes may be circulated by partnership members, so long as it is made clear they are yet to be finalised. Those speakers who are unwilling for material to be shared will be respected, and they will be given the opportunity to review the notes before they are finalised.

RW reiterated the desire for material to be circulated with members networks and would make sure that draft notes are sent out with a watermark to avoid confusion.

Don Naylor enquired whether the new terms of reference and arrangements around material sharing would extend to occasional working/ task & finish groups. RW thanked Don for raising this issue and cited there would likely to be an increasing need for these sorts of groups. The assumption is that these ToR's would act as the "default" for such groups in the first instance, but each group would be free to adapt to suit their own needs.

The Partnership members agreed to the new Terms of Reference.

All to note

6. Zero Waste Strategy for the Liverpool City Region – Mike Cockburn – Wirral Council and Carl Beer – Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority on behalf of LCR Strategic Waste Partnership

Please see separate annex slide decks

Mike Cockburn & Carl Beer provided an overview of the new Strategic Waste Partnership as shown on the attached slide presentation document.

GBT commended the scope & ambition of the work and welcomed the link between to the Pathway to Net Zero work. GBT also stressed the importance of linking up stakeholder engagement to avoid working in silos.

Cllr Harris queried how CB would see the recycling rates increasing, given they have been declining in recent years. CB acknowledged it is a tough issue to solve, and the figures quoted in the presentation on recycling rates also include "reuse". Some areas within the LCR are dense metropolitan areas, which makes a system change challenging, although "door knocking" & educational programmes could play an important part. One way to improve things would be account better for materials that are being reused. MC added that there was a need to grasp the opportunity presented by the Environment Act targets and really get a handle on waste in residual bins & collect more recyclables.

Caroline Holmes expressed her excitement at the community mapping taking place and how as an LA, she is keen to hook into that. This will really to help to cross-align the various workstreams. CB responded that he recently held a meeting at the Florrie with Mayor Joanne Anderson and over 20 not-for-profit groups involved in reuse to help understand how best to support this sector. It is a priority of Mayor Anderson's to work as far as possible at a community level, and if this approach could be replicated across other boroughs, it's surprising how many organisations are involved in action within this space. These organisations are desperate for support to be able to do more.

Cllr Robertson-Collins endorsed the sentiment of engaging with more community groups & commended the city Mayor for raising the profile of zero waste. Cllr Robertson-Collins queried what the current state of play was around the levy, as this is the financial incentive LA's need to really tackle waste issues. CB responded that the levy (the cost of waste disposal paid for by the LA's) doesn't necessarily incentivise reuse & recycling. This issue has been included as part of the action plan, as is a review of the governance of waste. Currently there is nothing around the LA's & Waste Authority taking collective decisions. MC added that it was up to the LA's to make a change, with MRWA only able to advise. Cllr Robertson-Collins responded that she understood this, which is why she was pleased to see Mayor Anderson take a lead.

John Mellors asked whether issues around contamination are about a lack of knowledge or a lack of willingness. CB responded that there is a balance between how much people will follow and understand the guidance and whether the development of downstream systems is the answer. There needs to be an appreciation that putting things in the right bin is not the biggest priority for many people, and education alone will not be enough. A collaborative, optimised approach will be key. MC added that education includes the workforce, and there has been somewhat of a laissez-faire approach to taking contaminated items. The issue around enforcement is controversial and behaviour change is something that will need to be addressed going forward.

Nick Thompson asked whether some work had been done to bring together those organisations who are already actively reusing & recycling, such as social enterprises. CB agreed this was a great idea, and is included as part of the action plan & strategy going forward, with the ambition to bring reuse organisations together and share good practice. This is something Mayor Anderson is supportive of.

GBT asked Rachel Waggett how she saw the linkages develop between the Waste Strategy work & the 5 Year Climate Action Plan. MC added RW was part of the working group developing the strategy. RW responded that this was an LA led initiative which is great to see, but the CA wants to support.

GBT thanked MC & CB for their contributions and welcomed future updates.

7. AOB	
<p>Rachel Waggett highlighted the two initiatives being led by Liverpool One (the links had been included in the agenda email and are also listed in the Useful Links below).</p> <p>a. Greener Future Fund This is a funding opportunity for those involved in education projects or those that work with young people to apply for up to £5,000, with the deadline in a couple of weeks.</p> <p>b. Local Climate Heroes award This is a chance to nominate and highlight those doing great work in the Climate space.</p> <p>RW encouraged members to share both items with their networks, and thanked Gill Wood for bringing them to the partnership's attention.</p>	All to note
8. Next Meeting	
4pm Thursday 21st July 2022	
Useful Links	
Greener Futures Fund - Applications now open - Liverpool ONE (liverpool-one.com)	
Nominate your Local Climate Heroes - Liverpool ONE (liverpool-one.com)	
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Events Eventbrite (for UKSPF webinars)	