

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 20th July 2023, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected, Climate Partnership
Vice Chair Cllr Gill Wood	Wirral BC, Climate Partnership
Rachel Waggett	LCRCA, Principal Environment Officer (meeting admin)
Tim Jago	LCRCA, Senior Policy Lead, Place & Net Zero
Patrick Hayes	LCRCA, Management Graduate
Archie McCluskey	LCRCA, Environment Officer
Don Naylor	Friends of the Earth
Nick Thompson	CPRE – The Countryside Charity, Sefton Coastal Landscape Partnership
Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral BC
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Mike Wolffe	St Helens BC
Jenni Brittlebank	Environment Agency
Victoria O’Kelly	University of Liverpool
Cllr Phil Harris	Halton BC
Cllr Paulette Lappin	Sefton BC
Rhona Bradburn	St Helens BC
Rachael Rhodes	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
John-Gareth Phillips	United Utilities

Apologies received from:

Annie Merry	Faiths for Change
Trevor Nicoll	St Helens BC
Peter Owen	Energy Project Plus, Cool Wirral Partnership

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

- Gideon Ben-Tovim – Raised that the LCRCA 5 Year Climate Action Plan has been approved at the Combined Authority meeting 14/07/2023. Gideon thanked all the members of the Climate Partnership as well as Combined Authority colleagues.
- Don Naylor – Raised that the Year 1 Climate Action Plan is on the Combined Authority website.
- Tim Jago – There will be links to all relevant documentation on the Combined Authority website as soon as possible.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don Naylor – Under point 4 from previous meeting – On the use of ‘low carbon hydrogen’ – is there another way that we can also note further detail about the term? - Rachel Waggett – The Combined Authority are in the process of publishing a Green Hydrogen Vision Study. When the 5 Year Climate Action Plan goes onto the website, hyperlinked information will lead to further information. The Technical Annex sitting behind the 5 Year Climate Action Plan will contact further information also. - Nick Thompson – On the Imagine Bamboo workshop (discussed at last meeting) – workshops are across the region over August and recommends attending. 	
<p>5. An update on the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) (Rachael Rhodes, MEAS)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rachel Waggett – Has real hopes that this project will further the interests of nature in the Liverpool City Region. - Rachael Rhodes – Shares slides. - Successful this time last year to secure funding bid through the Environment Agency to work on NEIRF for the LCR. - Nature and the climate emergency cannot be separated, so this work, as well as focusing on nature specifically, looks into co-benefits also. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Phil Harris – Biodiversity note December 2022 – Is this note the most up-to-date version and more widely available to other colleagues on the Climate Partnership? - Rachael Rhodes – Yes, this is the current version and is available on the MEAS website. This note will need revision with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) coming-in later this year. - Cllr Phil Harris - On the ecological network and the highlighted areas, compared with policies map (core biodiversity areas) at Halton Council and wondered if it recommended that these areas be within nature improvement areas? - Rachael Rhodes - It makes more sense for areas identified by the council policy map (core biodiversity areas) to be within nature improvement areas. Delivery within these areas is incentivised by the BNG metric via a multiplier. - Cllr Phil Harris - Who were the consultants? - Rachael Rhodes – Chris Bowden working on the seller side of things, Pure Leapfrog, working on investment and finance side of the project - Cllr Liz Grey – Has MEAS done any work with Wirral? A few sites identified as potential for use for BNG. - Rachael Rhodes – MEAS are aware of these sites and have been project managing a LCR-wide habitat survey. - Cllr Liz Grey – Is this an ongoing thing or is there a deadline? - Rachael Rhodes - Nature improvement areas are existing and the projects are just focused around them because of the potential for delivery. - Mike Wolfe – How are BNG sites identified? - Rachael Rhodes – There are a number of ways this could work: quantification first provided as a package for developers, for example. - Don Naylor – Terminology around BNG is confusing. What understanding of this exists within the broader community? Is there expected to be a mechanism for wider community interest and input from community groups? - Rachael Rhodes – There does need to be a better way to communicate this to the wider community and its associated benefits. MEAS want to create a ‘how-to guide’ which aims to clarify terms for project developers. - Victoria O’Kelly – Get in-touch if there would be connections at the University that would be useful. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rachael Rhodes – Would welcome connections. - Nicky Crosby – Furthers the point around confusion of terminology. - Rachel Rhodes – The final report is going to be published at the end of September 2023. - Rachel Waggett – Stresses that this a pilot so can apply learnings on a wider scale following this. - Gideon Ben-Tovim – There are other NEIRF projects, how do these link together? - Rachel Waggett – The LCRCAs have been working with each pilot across the LCR to learn lessons and find a definitive answer/approach that works for the region. 	
<p>6. An introduction to the work of United Utilities in the blue green infrastructure space (John-Gareth Phillips)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John-Gareth Phillips – Aims are to move away from conventional water storage as much as possible towards blue-green infrastructure water management. - Shares slides - Liverpool has a very high proportion of combined sewers. - Old system increasingly exposed to urban creep and climate change pressures. - A solution being worked on is to stop building surface water storage tanks and start utilising blue green infrastructure. - Work has already been done at schools, both having a physical benefit and raising awareness in young people. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Phil Harris – On the ‘Water for Schools’ programme, does it involve retrofitting existing school buildings or just new buildings? - John-Gareth Phillips – These were pilot projects which they are looking to roll-out wider. - Cllr Phil Harris – Would be interested in having contact officer at United Utilities for Halton. - John-Gareth Phillips – United Utilities work with planning authorities to influence designs, so they would be happy to use expertise to provide support. - Cllr Gill Wood – Could more case studies from the LCR regarding Susdrain on the United Utilities website. - John-Gareth Phillips – United Utilities will look to do this more with the case studies. - Cllr Gill Wood – Are there and plans for outreach? - John-Gareth Phillips – Retrofit in the public realm is quite invasive which is seen as imposed upon a community. Recognises that United Utilities need to learn to be better on how this is managed ahead of spending the money on doing these projects. - Nicky Crosby – The scale of the problem is large. Is there any quantifiable indication of the impact of these projects towards addressing the challenge? - The scale of the programme is huge, within the billions (£56bn in United Utilities 25 Year Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan plan). A lot of blue green infrastructure has been inputted into the United Utilities plan but maybe not enough. Too expensive to do alone, so all the co-benefits need to be understood and make the work more feasible through strategic programmes to unlock doing this at scale by working collaboratively. - Nick Thompson – Stresses that the Climate Partnership is here to help working in partnership to improve the environment and work on climate change. - Don Naylor (via Microsoft Teams chat) - How many of our Councils have policies that pro-actively discourage house owners from 'tarmacking over gardens'? - John-Gareth Phillips – This is an ongoing ‘pet’ project and as part of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, there is a workstream about paving over gardens which 	

<p>is in the kick-off phase. Any contribution from members and how they can become involved is welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Liz Grey – Raised this issue at this committee but comms is needed by as many people as possible, as many don't know about the planning regulations which regulate paving over gardens. - John-Gareth Phillips – Will raise this point within the working group. - Cllr Phil Harris – On astroturf – Is there anything in the workstream to communicate on plastic grass? - John-Gareth Phillips – Yes, but this needs to be understood by more people to make alternatives be understood and to work at scale. 	
<p>7. AOB</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victoria O'Kelly – NZ Maritime Energy Solutions – Would like to speak with more interested organisations – focused on PhD projects to focus on some key areas such as renewable energy and its impact on the environment. Looking for funding, guest lectures, access to support etc. - Don Naylor – Lots of misinformation out there at the moment. Our messaging of the realities needs to be more effective. - Paulette Lappin – Has sent round a report on the Council's action. This has been shared with the Combined Authority. - Cllr Liz Grey – the 5Year Climate Action Plan is going to go through Wirral Council's committee for endorsement and exposure. - Cllr Liz Grey – Lots of questions coming through about climate change denial and conspiracy. Need to get messages out before they get their messages out. - Mike Wolffe – Need to be careful about the language being used. - Nick Thompson – Should we be a Climate Emergency Committee? Maybe we need to revisit this thinking. 	<p>ALL TO NOTE</p>
<p>8. Next Meetings</p>	
<p>Thursday 21st September 2023 4pm – 5.30pm Thursday 19th October 2023 4pm – 5.30pm Thursday 23rd November 2023 4pm – 5.30pm</p>	