

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 11th January 2024, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected, Climate Partnership
Vice Chair Cllr Gill Wood	Wirral BC, Climate Partnership
Rachel Waggett	LCRCA, Policy Lead, Environment (meeting admin)
Martin Land	LCRCA, Clean Energy & Industrial Decarbonisation Lead, Tidal Project Director
Sean Maher	LCRCA, Place & Net Zero Policy Officer
Jamie Longmire	LCRCA, Principal Spatial Planning Officer
Archie McCluskey	LCRCA, Environment Officer
Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral BC
Cllr Phil Harris	Halton BC
Megan Bennett	Knowsley BC
Jeni Brittlebank	Environment Agency
Annie Merry	Faiths for Change
David Shields	Value Match
Mark Booth	United Utilities
Peter Owen	Energy Projects Plus
Cllr Paulette Lappin	Sefton BC
Megan Bennett	Knowsley BC
Vicki O'Kelly	University of Liverpool
Stephen Sykes	2030 Hub
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Lucy Northey	Wirral BC
Cllr Nathalie Nicholas	Liverpool CC
Seline Wakerley	Wirral BC - LCRCA Youth CA Lead
Stephen Hudson	Wirral BC - LCRCA Youth CA
Rachael Carroll	LCRCA Youth CA
James Metcalfe	LCRCA Youth CA
Amy Ellison	LCRCA Youth CA

Apologies received from:

Andrew Evans	Friends of the Earth
Mick Cockburn	Wirral BC
Andrea Watts	Sefton BC
Nick Thompson	CPRE – The Countryside Charity, Sefton Coastal Landscape Partnership

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

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

2. Declarations of interest



- Seline Wakerley - If anyone would like to engage with the LCR Youth Combined Authority group, please feel free to contact selinewakerley@wirral.gov.uk

3. Notes of last meeting for agreement

Minutes from previous meeting agreed.

4. Matters arising

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5. Update on progress to deliver the Five Year Climate Action Plan (*Archie McCluskey, LCR Combined Authority*)

- Archie McCluskey – Shares slides
- Actions within the Five Year Climate Action Plan will be built-in to the new Corporate Plan and reported on centrally with consistent timescales in order to save reporting several times.
- The evaluation aspect of the Five Year Climate Action Plan seeks to understand more about the outcomes and impacts of the actions. This, as well as carbon quantification, will help to determine the success of the Plan.
- Logic models, to determine the data to be captured, are nearing finalisation. Each pillar will be responsible for building-in measures to capture this data.
- There will be a mid-term review in January 2026 to reflect on successes and lessons learned which will inform the next part of the Plan.
- Archie McCluskey – Talks through an update on progress of actions within the Plan so far.

6. Climate Change in the emerging Spatial Development Strategy (*Jamie Longmire, LCR Combined Authority*)

- Jamie Longmire – Shares slides
- The Spatial Development Strategy is open for consultation. The draft strategy can be read and responses can be made [HERE](#) or by sending comments to the email address sds@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk. **The consultation closes on 16th February 2024.**
- Main objective is to make sure that climate change is embedded as a key planning priority
- There is still plenty of scope to change this document
- This strategy covers many areas such as economic growth and has tried to achieve balance between these areas, which inevitably results in compromise
- All planning decisions across the LCR need to consider the policies in the Spatial Development Strategy where relevant, once an adopted SDS is in place.
- The consultation is an opportunity to comment on all policies and nothing is final at this stage.
- Jamie Longmire – picks-out the objective around a cleaner, greener City Region as well as the policy on planning for climate change and alignment to the objectives of the Climate Partnership.
- Signposts other draft policies within the Spatial Development Strategy with relation to climate change.
- Signposts evidence used for the Sustainable Development Strategy
- Regulatory draft to be ready by around the end of 2024, as things stand subject to wider changes coming about as of part national government’s planning reform agenda.

Questions:

- Cllr Phil Harris – Welcomes new planning policies being in-place. As an observation, Halton BC have a Local Plan with enough house sites identified until 2037. However there have been 2 recent instances in Widnes where developers have purchased playing fields and wish to develop housing upon them. Hoping that Sport England will be able to intervene. A point maybe needs to be made to check whether this trend occurs elsewhere in the LCR. This also poses a risk to green/natural capital.

- Jamie Longmire – It sounds like the policy environment would be against this, especially with a recently adopted Local Plan. Also there is a long standing principle that playing fields should not be built upon unless they are clearly surplus to requirements.
- Nicky Crosby – There are huge constraints on what limitations local authorities can or wish to put on planning applications. How can national and borough-based constraints be placed on unwelcome planning applications? Such as an incinerator in Garston (a recent example).
- Jamie Longmire – The Spatial Development Strategy needs to consider Government National Planning Policy. This however hasn't been done before but needs to be an ambitious strategy to set our own framework for the LCR that is in-line with Government but is also right for the LCR. Going forward, Local Authority Local Plans need to conform to the Spatial Development Strategy, but all of the LAs are working closely with us to create the SDS and make sure that it is something that the LAs are fully happy with.
- Mark Booth – The Spatial Development Strategy might provide an opportunity for United Utilities to influence some issues that they have been wanting to action. At UU clearly there are a lot of challenges, but one of the challenges we have is the planning process, for example the flooding that we have seen this year, are we adding to the problem with some of the things that we are doing/allowing through planning? There are some things that we would really like to influence and feel we have quite a lot to offer in this process.
- Jamie Longmire – It would be great to re-establish dialogue to work together as well as receive your response to the consultation. Please do get in touch.
- Cllr Gill Wood – Do you think that the Spatial Development Strategy could be more proactive in supporting boroughs to get protection for green spaces?
- Jamie Longmire – The principle of green spaces protection in planning is well established. How it is then interpreted in planning, can be different, due to the nature of planning needs changing over time (or there being exceptional circumstances, for example). The presumption is that green space should be protected unless absolutely necessary. The SDS sets a high level strategic policy, which would add even more weight to the planning policy (with green spaces seen as a priority) and strengthen the ability to push back on such applications should the Local Authority want to do so.
- Cllr Gill Wood – Are you getting information from the local authorities about particular sites that they would wish to see protected?
- Jamie Longmire - This version of the SDS has been developed with a huge amount of collaboration with the local authorities and their planning teams. It doesn't go down to the site level, it is setting the overall strategic policy and then the local authority can use this to support their position on specific sites, which is within their remit.
- Seline Wakerley – Asks the Youth CA representatives if they have any reflections on the information presented in the meeting.
- Rachael Carroll – Would be great to have increased autonomy over green spaces locally. Welcomes the added weight the SDS will bring locally to protect green space.
- James Metcalfe – Will there be further opportunities similar to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy video for the Youth CA to get involved in Combined Authority work?
- Rachel Waggett – Would very much welcome involvement from the Youth CA because the contribution to the video was vital in getting the engagement that we did.
- Seline Wakerley - We have made a video of the areas of work that the YLCRCA have done and environment is a key element of this. We would like to see more simplified language that can be appealing to young people.
- Amy Ellison – More youth-friendly language through engaging mediums needs to be employed for such strategies in order to let young people know about their existence.
- James Metcalfe - If you want to engage with particular populations, you have to develop the engagement with the people you are trying to target, not separately.



- Annie Merry – Does the Spatial Development Strategy protect in law the green spaces that have been set-out in the Strategy? Thinking specifically about public land such as Rimrose Valley Park.
- Jamie Longmire – You can own land, but that doesn't give you the right to develop it. Protection comes through the planning system with policies on the protection of green space – the protection lies in the planning policy framework.

7. AOB

- Rachel Waggett – The next meeting will feature presentations about the next round of the Community Environment Fund launch and an update on the Mersey Tidal project.

8. Next Meetings

Thursday 29th February 2023 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 21st March 2023 4pm – 5.30pm