

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 20th June 2024, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected, Climate Partnership
Rachel Waggett	LCRCA, Policy Lead, Environment (meeting admin)
Archie McCluskey	LCRCA, Environment Officer
Andy Judd	Environment Agency
Stephen Sykes	2030 Hub
Rosie Barker	LCR Waste & Resources Partnership
Michelle Whalley	Mersey Forest
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Rob Allen	United Utilities
Nick Thompson	CPRE, Nature Connected
Stephen Hudson	Wirral BC – LCRCA Youth CA

Apologies received from:

Cllr Gill Wood	Deputy Chair Climate Partnership, LCRCA Deputy Portfolio Holder for Net Zero and Air Quality
Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral BC
Andrew Evans	Friends of the Earth
Seline Wakerley	Wirral BC - LCRCA Youth CA Lead
David Shields	Value Match
Annie Merry	Faiths for Change
Peter Owen	Energy Projects Plus
Michele Grey	Knowsley Council

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

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

2. Declarations of interest

- No declarations of interest

3. Notes of last meeting for agreement

Minutes from previous meeting agreed.

4. Matters arising

- No matters arising

5. Liverpool City Region Waste & Resources Partnership – Development of a ‘Zero Waste Strategy’ (Rosie Barker, LCR Waste & Resources Partnership Manager)

- Rosie Barker – shares slides
- Explains how the Waste & Resources Partnership works
- A key strength is that joint procurement benefits from economies of scale and prevents competition between members of the Partnership

- Notes that waste is one of the only areas of net zero where residents can make an impact daily, due to personal decisions.
- We've had very stable recycling rates for the last 10 years and increasing consumption. We really recognise that it's time for a new approach in terms of our contribution.
- Waste prevention and reuse should not be overlooked but recycling rates are still a good indicator of general performance. So you can see here we're at around just over 30% and the English average is around just over 40%, with Greater Manchester at 50%.
- As for waste generated per household, LCR is at 600kg per household per year and Greater Manchester at 350kg per year.
- As part of the housing growth we're expecting to see in the next 10 years, an indicative increase of 5% extra waste will be generated as a result of this.
- Rosie Barker – updates on various national policy areas relevant for waste and resources.
- The Partnership's [Strategic Framework](#) links with the LCRC 5 Year Climate Action Plan and is quite a high-level document around reducing consumption and more efficient use of resources to minimise carbon impact.
- Also covers co-benefits such as local skills and employment, as well as social value.
- Zero Waste Strategy is in development. On behaviour change, there exists a Waste and Resources Partnership sub-group specifically focused on behaviour change.
- Current contract which looks after recycling in the region expires is held by Veolia and Looking at the options for food waste collections, circular options are being assessed, such as use of biomethane to power trucks which is created from the food waste itself.
- Linking-up with the bus depot team around sustainable fuelling.

Questions:

- Nick Thompson – How is the partnership attempting to solve the issue that St Helens collect food waste and the other 5 councils do not?
- Rosie Barker – St Helens are a key part of the Partnership and bring a great degree of experience which has been helpful. The legal deadline for food waste collection is also bringing other councils in-line with St Helens.
- Michelle Whalley – Notes the difference between LCR and Greater Manchester in terms of the data presented. What specifically is causing this huge difference?
- Rosie Barker – Greater Manchester have had a food waste collection service for over 10 years and moved to a restricted residual collection service – there is a clear evidence base that this physical prompt promotes changes in behaviour. They have also done a lot of communications and behaviour change projects and interventions.
- Nicky Crosby – Who pays through ETS?
- Rosie Barker – MRWA pays the disposal bill including ETS costs, Councils then pay the MRWA so ultimately the costs sit with Councils.
- Stephen Sykes – Notes that the waste has energy recovered from it rather than just incinerated.
- Rosie Barker – Notes that the statutory responsibility for waste targets and related net zero targets sits with the constituent authorities, but we expect the Zero Waste Strategy to have high level targets that we all collectively work towards.
- Gideon Ben-Tovim – Are you likely to change the date of the Strategy target in light of the proposed change to the LCR net zero target (2040 to 2035)?
- Rosie Barker – This will have to be given due consideration.
- Stephen Hudson – Will consultations be targeted to all ages or will it just be a general consultation?
- Rosie Barker – It is an engagement rather than a consultation and the questions are being developed at the moment and target groups decided upon. Asks: in terms of environmental groups, is the Climate Partnership the correct forum to approach to engage these groups?



- Rachel Waggett – Many of the attendees to this group have networks to tap into, especially for engaging underrepresented groups who we don't usually hear from, such as small businesses who will be heavily affected by such changes outlined.
- Nick Thompson – Should there be more partnerships through the Combined Authority?
- Rachel Waggett – The difference between this and other areas is that waste is a strategic and statutory duty, held by the local authorities. The Combined Authority doesn't have any responsibility in this area, but tries to enable and support in this area.
- Rosie Barker – Recognises that the Combined Authority can support in the area of comms and engagement, especially around climate comms. Sees links in terms of food poverty, for example, as a strategic touchpoint.
- Stephen Sykes – Had a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the MRWA last week and was asked to be on the stakeholder group of MRWA's procurement for a new treatment contract when Veolia contract ends in 2029.

6. Update on LCR Water Management (Archie McCluskey, LCR Combined Authority Environment Officer)

- Archie McCluskey – shares slides
- Sets the context that water management is a particularly important reason in the LCR for a few reasons, including coastal geography, dense population and higher than average proportions of combined sewer systems.
- The LCR water management 'vision document' (currently a working title) will be a high-level document, similar to the Pathway to Net Zero, to set a strategic direction for water management in the LCR.
- The document is being jointly drafted by the LCRCA and United Utilities.
- Governance for the resulting document and any actions will be via the Communities and Neighbourhood Directors board, but updates will be provided elsewhere, such as to the Climate Partnership.
- Indicative timeline for completion is Winter.
- The document focuses on the 4 'pillars' of water quality, coastal water, surface water and water resources.
- The document will highlight issues within each pillar with the use of data and graphics, explain concepts discussed, explain acceleration of issues due to climate change, introduce potential solutions and case studies, then highlight gaps in resources needed to address the issues.
- On the memorandum of understanding that Mayor Rotherham wants to sign within 100 days of re-election, work is ongoing to get an agreement in-place. Regardless of having a memorandum, however, the stakeholders involved are committed to working together to improve water management across the LCR.

Questions:

- Steven Sykes – noted that he hosted the aforementioned workshop to inform the vision document and that it was a very easy workshop to facilitate because there was so much positivity in the room. Positivity raised even further when suggestions of joint working were raised.
- Works with multiple businesses on environmental management systems and always highlights the importance of knowing where drains go to, which a lot of businesses don't have on their radar. This is a big challenge so Steven is glad it is being taken forward.
- Rob Allen – One thing to add is that the investment coming down the line is significant, but it will take time and the scale of infrastructure required is just massive as well as complex. There is some advanced investment particularly in St Helens and Sefton where there are priority storm overflows. There is already ongoing collaboration between the Combined Authority and United Utilities to maximise the benefit of projects.



- Investigation currently underway will inform investment into 2030 and beyond, on a scale to rival the Mersey Basin Campaign.
- Andy Judd – One of the key challenges the Environment Agency has in this space is that it is a regulator, so partnership is sometimes made difficult.
- From a flood risk perspective, the EA needs to be a supporter of schemes that also supports water quality.
- Recommends reading the EA's Plan for Water.
- Transformation of the water system in the LCR will take time and lots of working together.
- Engaging with United Utilities a lot on removing barriers to investment in the planning phase for schemes, whilst at the same time upholding environmental standards.
- The EA has to be equitable with funding but can make the case for extra funding where there is a particular challenge. There is potential to test unique ways to solve challenges.

7. AOB

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8. Next Meetings

Thursday 25th July 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 19th September 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 21st November 4pm – 5.30pm