

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 21st March 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)
Laura Ward	LCRCA, Place & Net Zero Environment Officer
Sean Maher	LCRCA, Place & Net Zero Policy Officer
Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral BC
Megan Bennett	Knowsley BC
Jeni Brittlebank	Environment Agency
Annie Merry	Faiths for Change
Peter Owen	Energy Projects Plus
Stephen Sykes	2030 Hub
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Seline Wakerley	Wirral BC - LCRCA Youth CA Lead

Apologies received from:

Rosie Barker	LCR Waste & Resources Partnership Manager
Cllr Paulette Lappin	Sefton BC
Lucy Northey	Wirral BC
Andrea Watts	Sefton BC
Cllr Dan Barrington	Liverpool CC

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

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

2. Notes of last meeting for agreement

Minutes from previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising

- Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotheram, has announced the next round of the Community Environment Fund. **[Post-meeting note:** the project application page is now open for groups to start inputting project proposals at this link: [LCR Community Environment Fund - Home \(spacehive.com\)](https://www.spacehive.com)]
- Nicky Crosby had concern regarding the Mersey Tidal Barrage scheme statement that it would have limited impacts on Water Quality. Rachel Waggett explained that the project still has some considerable way to go before any environmental impacts are properly understood. Early investigations have not raised any particular concerns but there is a great deal more assessment to be undertaken as part of the next stage of work.



- Nicky Crosby raised a question about more information on the HyNet project, to which Rachel Waggett provided information on the previous Climate Partnership presentation by Mark Knowles. It was agreed that Mark Knowles or another member of the team would be asked to update the Partnership on the recent work to produce a Green Hydrogen Vision for the Liverpool City Region.

ACTION: RW

There was a discussion around proposed development on Whiston Woods in Knowsley which is proposed as a site for expansion of the adjacent community cemetery. There were some concerns raised about biodiversity and habitat loss. Megan Bennett clarified that Knowsley Council are considering proposals to create a cemetery on less than 1/4 of the wider woodland area, the proposals have been designed to avoid the wooded areas and focus on the marginal area of the site. Biodiversity will be a key priority of the project if it proceeds. **[Post-meeting note:** more information about the proposals for the cemetery including the outcome of the public consultation can be found here: [Update on the proposed Knowsley Cemetery Extension - Knowsley News](#)]

Annie Merry initiated a discussion around increased engagement with local communities and the following points were made:

- Seline Wakerley agreed on the importance of engaging with the local communities further giving examples through the Youth Combined Authority. She also mentioned the potential for reaching out to education providers.
- Rachel Waggett provided insight into issues in her local area with misinformation and lack of understanding from local communities on local energy projects.
- Peter Owen stated that hopefully the partnership can have a role in increasing transparency as well as he believes a lot of the dialogue and discussion is based on the misinformation, misunderstanding or fear.
- Nicky Crosby raised that she thinks citizens assemblies are important and are potentially one route forward on this.
- It was agreed that this area of work could be a productive future agenda item. **ACTION: Combined Authority.**
- Sean Maher provided an update on the progress of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) which has a vision to 2040 and is being aligned with our climate action plan and the pathway to net zero. He also noted that a huge amount of modal shift is needed across transport to transition to net zero, and the LTP plans to tackle this.
- Laura Ward provided an update on the progress of Integrated Water Management, highlighting the relationship with United Utilities, and the development of a memorandum of understanding and a “vision document” for the city region, which will cover water quantity, water quality and water security.
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4. Invited speakers

Unfortunately due to ill health, invited speakers Rosie Barker, LCR Waste & Resources Partnership Manager and John Kellaway, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service were unable to attend the meeting. The Combined Authority will seek to reschedule these speakers on a future agenda.

5. Next Meetings

Thursday 23rd May 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 20th June 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 25th July 4pm – 5.30pm