

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Wednesday 20th November 2019, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Committee Room 4

Attendees

Geoff Dowker, Steven Kendall, Jennifer Dickinson, Sam Ronson, Mike Otto, Keith Johnson, Sabine Skae, Jamie Muir, Peter Buckley, Marie Richards, Cllr Helen Wall, Cllr Ann Thompson, Cllr Lee Roberts, Janice Sharp, Chris Jones, Alison Coward, Graham Barker, Helen Houston, Michael Barry

Apologies: Cllr Hazel Edwards (short notice given to Conservative group for this meeting)

Draft Climate Change Policy

Suggestion to review policy in 5 years so that policy is updated in line with science and national guidance.

BEIS data calculation discussed and comparison with other councils, suggested aim to be neutral by 2030 and Borough to be neutral by 2044 but agreed more data needed to confirm if this is achievable.

ACTION: GB to chase up data agreed at Cumbria Chief Executive Group.

Deadline for Council is 17th March 2020 and Executive Committee meets on 4th March 2020 so final policy is needed mid February.

ACTION: Group to consider draft policy and send any amendments via tracked changes to AC to collate.

Draft Climate Change Action Plan

Action plan to be amended in line with changes to policy, lead officers agreed for tasks throughout the action plan.

This is intended to be a working document bringing together all the actions of the Council that contribute towards our ambition.

Discussion around heating and renewable energy. Energy contracts tied in until 2023, can be considered on renewal.

Discussion around planning and building control enforcement and sustainability. Could create an SPD but difficult to enforce, key issue is that national policy needs to be stronger and lead on this so that we don't discourage development in the area.

ACTION: KJ to look at actions for Objective 4. Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste and update with specific goals in line with ongoing improvements.

Discussion around tree planting and encouraging community groups to apply for free trees through the woodland trust but also agreed that increased planting on our own land should be an action as well. HW requested that a community orchard for Barrow be considered.

ACTION: MR to set an achievable target for increased planting and look at allocating land we would like to see improved first.

European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Bid

Low Carbon Barrow, joint project with Art Gene to support low carbon economy in Barrow. Measures to improve energy efficiency and generation, EV car charging on car parks, housing improvements, grants for businesses, economic development projects such as low carbon Piel, community engagement and schools projects.

Initial bid to ESIF £1.5-£2 million. Requirement for match funding so also submitted bid to Cumbria LEP and have been invited to prepare full business cases for both. Tight timescale - currently developing scope of works, links strongly into Climate Change action plan and corporate priorities.

ACTION: Michael Barry to arrange workshops using this group to focus on creating and costing a programme of interventions.

Local Enterprise Partnership Funding Bid

Funding bid for private sector housing improvements has been unsuccessful – to be removed from action plan.

Local Authority Climate Policy Group

Helen Houston attends and will be link for our group. Aim is to support and advise main Climate Change Working Group.

Carbon accounting methodology from SLDC and LDNP was circulated before the meeting, suggestion that we can use the same method when calculating our own emissions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

No public charging points in Barrow until one recently installed at Tesco. MO has been looking at different options for the authority to provide charging points, all agreed more information is needed so Energy Savings Trust to run a workshop based on all different options.

ACTION: MO to arrange workshop.

Also for our own staff, need to consider if journeys are essential – unnecessary journeys could be reduced with technology upgrades such as skype or better accounting facilities.

Staff leasing for electric vehicles could be considered, suggestion of a travel survey to staff first to inform any changes.

Discussion around businesses and what they are doing, could approach big businesses to see if they have transport strategy that we could use to help plan.

Local Cycling Infrastructure meeting in a few weeks –

ACTION: MB to forward invite to GB

Public Engagement

Engagement project with schools discussed, focus on air quality but strong links with climate change.

Discussion around how to engage wider public. Citizens panel / assembly considered but questions over whether it's necessary at this stage. Link with local groups and partnerships more effective so we can deliver some carbon savings first.

Could have advice on behaviour change available on the website, along with actions taken.

ACTION: AC to work on website updates

Grants / Funding available

Agreed this would be a standing item on the agenda, members to identify any relevant funding for climate change actions.

Climate Action Fund highlighted - Lottery funding for community-led partnership groups. <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund#section-3> – Potential for Barrows Beautiful Places, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, etc to apply.

Any Other Business

- Whole council needs to be onboard as it will affect every department and ways of working, should add minutes to staff pages so all staff can see it as a start.
- Carbon footprint at the Dock Museum is known and they try to educate the public by running plastics free workshop and fairs. SS offered to provide advice on how to do calculation for other buildings. Suggested there be a sustainability plan for each department, so everyone is contributing on an individual level. Also there is currently a funding bid in for solar panels for the Dock Museum.
- Suggestion of leasing roof space to solar panel companies (acknowledged that the Leisure Centre and Forum already has solar panels on roof) Tidal barrage for dock museum, question if that could be looked at.
- Use the Cumbria Coastal Strategy (<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ccs/>) to form part of communications to members of the public and highlight to communities that sea level rising is a very real, local problem. Once the strategy is finalised. We should give examples to and involve the public as to why we are treating this as an emergency without giving rise to panic.
- Could review the policy again in 12 months if data not available in the short term. Also highlighted global issue of climate change, agriculture is a major contributor, could we help people understand their own carbon footprint – for example through diet. Also improves peoples Health & Wellbeing.
- Can we add to website suggestion requests from the public along with links to work out peoples offset.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 9th January 2020
Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Venue: Committee Room 4