

Coventry's Climate Change Board

Inaugural meeting - 17 November 2021

Board Members Present		In Attendance	
Margot James	WMG, University of Warwick (Chair)	Andy Williams	Coventry City Council
Cllr Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council (Vice Chair)	Colin Knight	Coventry City Council
Martin Sutherland	City of Culture	Annie Truong	Coventry City Council
Ian Marshall	Coventry University	Bret Willers	Coventry City Council
Clive Robinson	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire	Anna Livesey	Coventry City Council
Anthony Evans	Sarginsons	Matt Dillow	Coventry City Council
Louise Woollen	West Midlands Police	Hopi Sen	WMG, University of Warwick
Martin Reeves	Coventry City Council		
Neil Griffiths	West Midlands Fire Service		
Matthew Rhodes	Camirus		
Sophie Mason	Coventry Building Society		
Sarah Windrum	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP		

Apologies received from the following:

Audrey O'Connor (Canal and Rivers Trust), Louise Bennett (Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce), Mariama Ceesay (Coventry University Social Enterprise CIC), Mike Lewis (EON), Chris Ennew (University of Warwick), Ed Green (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust), Mandy Bygrave (Coventry & Warwickshire Co-operative Development Agency - CDA)

Welcome and opening from Margot James

Inaugural meeting of the independent Climate Change board advising the City of Coventry's climate change endeavours.

- 50% of the world's population live in cities and 70% carbon emissions come from cities
- Coventry City Council has decided to work collaboratively at a city-wide level, as have cities like Leeds and Edinburgh
- A considerable amount of work by the City Council is already underway, and it's unusual for a City like Coventry to undertake something so ambitious as an Independent Climate Change Board
- The council will be members of the board as well as offering support and providing secretariate duties
- The council cannot achieve the climate change targets alone but it can galvanise organisations bringing people together and stimulate the necessary behaviour change which is key and why we have convened Coventry's Climate Change Board

Introduction from the Vice Chair Cllr Jim O'Boyle

- It's important that the board is diverse and interesting as it can be. As the board matures and develops, we'll bring on further members
- We wanted to launch our purpose and ambition today, but feel this is very much the start of a journey

- A personal thanks to Margot as our Independent chair, who has a track record in delivery in this area
- You will have noticed that Margot and I are not of the same political persuasion; it is important to get across that this is a cross party issue and we need to work together to address it. We want to demonstrate to the public that we all take climate change and sustainability very seriously in bringing forward ambitious targets and challenges for the city
- Coventry is a leader in addressing carbon reduction targets particularly with making innovative changes to the transport system with VLR and electric buses by 2025, but we need to reach further
- We're looking to members to generate ideas, support and collaborate on proposals to test and bring them forward in the city
- Organisations with large carbon footprints can make the biggest difference in our city. Whilst these organisations could be seen as the issue, they will also be the ones to bring forward technological advances and resolve them too
- Let's challenge ourselves with ideas and recommendations with serious results that we can all support by pulling levers to make a lasting difference

Board member introductions

Name and title	Overview
Louise Woollen Environment and Sustainability Manager, West Midlands Police (WMP)	New in role, and a new role for the force which recognises the prioritisation of this topic. The police are keen to have an environment strategy in place and engaging widely to shape the strategy with the aim to set net zero goals from a policing point of view. Currently working through the estates programme with efficient buildings and net zero in mind. Electrifying the fleet and EV infrastructure is being addressed. At an operational policing level there are transformation programmes looking at the role of digital. As a large employer there will be engagement opportunities in the wider workforce and communities.
Martin Sutherland Chief Executive, City of Culture Trust (CoCT)	Midway through City of Culture programme. Green futures is a key focus and something CoCT have embraced. Major work has focused on the public realm engaging people across the City. Within what is a diverse city, the Trust is looking at what changes citizens can make in their lives, and encourage the use of green/blue and grey spaces. The Trust will be entering into the legacy phase with a further 2-year commitment, with all activities having a green futures focus. CoCT have supported in convening the events industry to become cleaner and greener. Activities include the launch of the 'Green Code'. Coventry has chance to lead in this area and the drive to influence the sector.
Sarah Windrum Chair of the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP)	Chair of the CWLEP and has recently sold her own IT business. Also recently returned to university to study AI and data science. The aim of the local enterprise partnership is to maximise economic opportunities from the green economy. The LEP want to support business (from micro businesses to large corporations) in this drive and also to minimise risk. The LEP is heavily involved in the electrification agenda and supports the development of the Gigafactory. A key interest for the CWLEP is local energy production for local energy consumption. There's a real opportunity economically and socially in local energy/community groups for both production and consumption. The LEP will support the skills growth and supply chain; supporting diversification and new business growth. CWLEP can are in a position to work through the region e.g. repowering the economy and

	work with other LEPs e.g. Black Country LEP, and have a good knowledge of the UK system, (digital and gamification) particularly in behaviour change.
Martin Reeves Chief Exec, Coventry City Council (CCC)	Martin brings creditability and authenticity. He chaired a national cross distance board on sustainability and was heavily involved with the work which fed into the Paris Agreement. Current chair of the national board that links into the Greener NHS and the care system. A first generation electric car owner. Very passionate about Climate Change and believes we have an opportunity from an individual behaviour perspective right up to our great organisations to make a fundamental shift. The city requires evidence, action and conviction to achieve this.
Neil Griffiths Strategic Enabler for Sustainability, Innovation and Digital Partnerships West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS)	The WMFS love working with people and bring a lot of connectivity to the table with lots of different skill sets. NG raised concerns following COP26 about key 'detailed' strategies that need to be in place by 2023. Some organisations may not have started this and maybe a challenge in itself for the city. The biggest challenge for the Fire Service is the electrification of fire engines due to the unique nature of procurement. There is an opportunity through the WMFS' extensive activities focused on prevention and protection. Working with the public and businesses to assist climate change as it's about changing behaviours and can help getting into the heart of the community. The Fire Service also undertakes 'Safe and well visits' looking at escape routes, and are now also looking into health – the visits could, in future also support the environment and sustainability impact and encourage the contribution of individuals to this effort.
Matthew Rhodes, Camirus (Cam)	Matthew has supported low carbon business' for the last 20 years. Following the Johannesburg summit, he believed that the Government wasn't going to solve the problem at any level and there was a need to do something locally. After supporting projects and developing companies, there is now an understanding that local authorities are fundamental to supporting the delivery of net zero and are key enablers to making it happen. Matthew is heavily involved in the LEP and the Combined Authority. He is the Chair of Energy Capital which finds better ways of working with infrastructure providers to deliver zero carbon, but also understands it requires a degree of control locally on where and what they invest in. Currently, this doesn't exist in the UK and he has been lobbying from this position for the last 5 years. Matthew is also involved in the Regional Energy Systems Operator (RESO) Project with Coventry City Council. It explores the role of cities in the UK energy system and how that role may develop in future. RESO is currently seeking additional funding to develop the next steps as it requires significant support to develop the organisational design thinking further. Matthew has an engineering background and sees how the City Council can lead in developing infrastructure for the city. He is very mindful that we shouldn't develop the wrong infrastructure in the wrong place i.e. support manufacturing in one part of the country and have the skills in another part. Cities are able to action levers now (without extra powers), particularly in transport and buildings sector as cities already have a good control over how these are developed. The role of the city should be to deliver at the lowest possible cost to and need to make it efficient. If it is developed centrally, it will be expensive, many businesses will suffer/close as they don't have the touch points or granularity of a locality. Cities are needed to provide this local information, and Matthew is keen to help in this space.

<p>Ian Marshall Deputy Vice Chancellor Coventry University (CU)</p>	<p>Sustainability features as part of a wider portfolio at the University. The campus sits in the middle of a vibrant city and has a strong influence on students (60% of all students are commuter students), staff travel, and the re-development of the city centre campus. Some buildings are at the end of their economic life which are expensive to run. The University needs a plan to replace and upgrade these – with considerations for teaching, research, development, and the impact on the city centre. Ian would like to seek alternative solutions to solar as not all buildings can support this due to their age. Also the university has a challenge of c.180 gas meters/boiler that are at the end of their working life in student accommodation across the city – and the University is keen to understand what is the best alternative options for this.</p>
<p>Clive Robinson Sustainable Development Manager, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (CWNHS)</p>	<p>The NHS been on the sustainability journey for the last 15 years primarily due to the impact on the population. From working inwards at buildings, sustainable models of care to changing the way of doing things. They recently implemented the new integrated care service working with partners such as ambulance primary care and social care with the Council. The NHS are now working outwards to become the first health care service to be carbon neutral. A number of workstreams have been set up to address Innovation for technology in the health and clinical environment for example, ways to travel and air quality is also very important. They have a large customer and staff base (5% of the City’s trips are to do with the NHS) and is interested in finding out how we can work together to support and reduce these impacts.</p>
<p>Sophie Mason Head of sustainability Coventry Building Society (CBS)</p>	<p>Coventry Building Society (CBS) already has net zero targets in place. Scope 2 targets will be in place by end of this year. They aim to be carbon neutral (scope 1) by end of the year. The net zero target for scope 3 is 2030 for operational emissions, and a 2040 date will include the mortgage book. The priority will be looking at the scope 3 challenge and how to influence others. The Mortgage book will be particularly difficult too. Some homeowners don’t want to change their homes; we also need to understand how we can incentivise homeowners that don’t have any money, how can we work with government on grants/funding etc. They are interested in getting local organisations together to share best practice. CBS has worked with the council for several years particularly on social value. CBS are looking forward to working collaboratively particularly with schools and would like to do more on the environmental side above and beyond trees that is more impactful.</p>
<p>Anthony Evans Managing Director Sarginsons Industries</p>	<p>Sarginsons is a local Foundry which produces naked flames and is a high energy user. They only manufacture aluminium, which his predominantly for automotive industry. Customers are usually from the niche market automotive sector (JLR, Aston Martin. McLaren, Lotus) who need high chassis components. There has been a massive change since the pandemic. They have increased turnover and majority of the work is associated with EV companies at a local business park. Sarginsons has worked closely with LEP and Green Business network over the last few years. A key message for them would be that that carbon reduction also delivers cost reduction. Everything implemented in terms of the Green Business programme reduced their carbon footprint with the added benefit of reducing cost as well. Currently they are working with WMG to digitise heat/heat usage to use technology to drive further reduction. Also, Sarginsons are part of the cast metal federation. They would also like to move from natural gas to hydrogen for their services at some point. They have a customer base for sustainability</p>

vehicles and EV/battery manufacture. A strong manufacturing knowledge in the UK and a high skill level in the area. The organisation is aided by the academic base available in Coventry and keen to be part of the strong ambition and collaboration in Coventry.

Other attendees

Andy Williams - Director of Business Investment and Culture, Coventry City Council

Colin Knight – Director of Transport and Highways, Coventry City Council

Annie Truong – Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Coventry City Council

Hannah Anderson – Executive Office Manager for Margot James at WMG

Bret Willers – Head of Climate Change and Sustainability, Coventry City Council

Anna Livesy - Business Development Manager, Coventry City Council

Matt Dillow - Business Development Advisor, Coventry City Council

Presentation from Bret Willers and Margot James – see attached

AOB

- SW offered support for businesses with the 'find it in CW portal' as a route for local procurement of suppliers. This could also be used as a source of information such as future fit. The LEP are also currently working with Sean Russel @ CU to develop a trust pilot model providing recommendation/reviews of services for other organisations to then from micro businesses to large corporates depending on their needs.
- NG asked members to consider social media and communication to bring out social media platforms and influences.
- BW noted that communications and behaviour change are critical and we may want to bring future partners in this area to support reaching a certain demographics
- MJ suggested that any branding, website or dissemination of the information from the board meeting should be developed once a significant amount of traction is underway
- MR final thoughts on the meeting was to balance decisive action. Whilst evidence is important we should deliver activity and energise collaboration. Many projects only prototype and fail to deliver the full impact so we need to overcome that challenge collectively
- AL was interested in the key engagement points were in the city and how we could use this opportunity to share messages

Actions

- Invitation to be sent to Andy Gouldson to present route map and action plan for Coventry and share information as the chair of the climate change board in Leeds at a later Climate Change board meeting (AT)
- All members should review the 5 pathways with a view to volunteer to chair (and be members) of the 5 pathway groups which will be discussed at the next meeting (ALL)
- Set up a series of events as information exchange sessions for members on battery, materials, plastics, manufacturing and waste (MJ)
- Next meeting doodle poll to be sent to members for dates at the end of January / February (AT)