

## Coventry's Climate Change Board Meeting –20 June 2022

Board members present	Observers and stakeholders
Margot James(MJ)–Chair,WMG Cllr Jim O’Boyle (JOB) -Vice -Chair,Coventry City Council Ed Green(EG)-Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Russ Hall(RH)-WMG Chris Ennew (CE) – University of Warwick Martin Reeves – CEO Coventry City Council Matthew Rhodes – Camirus Mariama Njie – CUSE Social Enterprise Programme Coventry University Ian Marshall (IM)-Coventry University (Virtual) Tony Evans (TE)-Sarginsons (Virtual) Mandy Bygrave(MB)–CDA (Virtual)	Claire Wheatley (CW), WMG Colin Knight(CK)-Director Coventry City Council Darren O’Shaughnessy (DOS) – Communications Officer Coventry City Council Andy Williams(AW)-Director Coventry City Council Sara Azeem (SA)-Coventry City Council Bret Willers (BW) – Head of Sustainability & Climate Change -Coventry City Council Hopi Sen(HS)– WMG
<b>Apologies</b>	
Lizzie Frost, Sophie Mason – Coventry Building Society Michael Lewis,	

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Welcome and updates -Margot James, WMG

MJ welcomed the attendees and started the meeting.

### 2. Minutes

Routemap awaiting final amendments covering revised housing projections Prof Gouldson on leave

#### Pathway Group Chairs updates

### 3. Low emission (LE) development pathway working group update –Philip Wallace, EON

PW provided an update on the LE working group. Since the last board meeting, the group has met once and has set in place two exemplar programmes

One with EON and the Council, and the other with EON, WMG, and Sarginsons

#### i) Fuel Poverty Alleviation Exemplar (E.ON + Council)

A collaboration to combine all funding streams with a focus on Coventry's most fuel-poor wards, starting with Foleshill. The aim is to take an area-based approach to addressing the retrofit challenge while delivering on fuel poverty alleviation and improvement in health and wellbeing. Stated that around 40% of their customers will be facing fuel poverty.

Suggested that there is a presentation at the next meeting focusing on the practical action being carried out by Eon and partners'

BW added that departments like Adult Services have made modifications that help vulnerable people stay at home. Work is currently being done with WMCA on data sharing and identifying target areas.

**ii) SME/Manufacturing Decarbonisation Exemplar (E.ON + WMG + Sarginsons)**

The second exemplar aims to become a source of inspiration for SMEs and manufacturers across the region by collaborating on a solution to further decarbonise and reduce costs at Sarginsons

**Low emission development pathway discussion**

JOB raised a question about the close partnership on comms between EON and the Council for exemplar 1. Suggested that a timeline be put together with dates, which can be shared publicly. BW said that he has draft timelines in place.

MR stated that we need to get beyond basic retrofitting to actually make a difference, and that we need to learn from elsewhere. BW shared that the council is working with the university's behavioural economics team to understand the barriers to retrofit and how to overcome them. Agreed to keep the board informed of the progress.

MJ suggested that a sub-group be created for communications. BW and DOS to be involved.

JOB agreed and reemphasised the importance of public engagement. BW expressed that it has been a struggle to find someone for the equitable pathway.

**4. Nature based (NB)development pathway working group update -Ed Green**

EG provided an update on the nature-based pathway working group. A meeting was held in May.

**i) River Sherbourne project**

Four-year project that will run from October 2022-26 with the aim to reconnect the people of Coventry with the city's river, restore the river for wildlife and to follow on from the City of Culture programme. Funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund (61%) and private (SWT) and public sector (CCC and EA)

Most interesting part is public engagement, especially post City of Culture - project has the potential to engaging 3500 people regularly. In this way, the project would give a long-lasting legacy to the city host. Would also be able to meet training needs emphasised by city council representatives.

**ii) Repairing the landscape for wildlife and people**

Showed a map that represented the activities going on in the South East of Coventry. The map depicts opportunities for Nature Based Solutions such as repurposing agricultural land and the old Brandon Wood Golf course. Incredible concentration of areas that have a common vision - to be an exemplar for repurposing land and repairing landscape.

There are barriers to access, both man-made and natural, such as the A46/A45, Birmingham to Euston mainline and the River Avon.

Coventry's efforts have been recognised in a guardian article published on the day ([link](#))

Other potential areas of activity were mentioned - reassessment of all green spaces with a biodiversity analysis, new allotment leases, as well as reviewing the Coventry local plan this autumn and maintaining the city of culture legacy as it winds down.

#### **Nature based development pathway discussion**

EG informed the Group that WWT currently manage 80 sites across the City

EG asked if it were possible to have a map of City Council Land ownership in order to find out possible locations and connectivity between them which would assist re-wilding projects.

The potential for repairing the landscape around Brandon Marsh and Brandon Wood was discussed.

MR would like to know what are the sources of funding for rewilding work

### **5. Circular economy(CE)development pathway working group update–Russ Hall, WMG**

RH provided an update on the pathway group. The aim of the CE pathway is to influence UK government legislation and to act within the community (through education and waste reduction), and industry (closed loop recycling and industrial symbiosis).

#### **a. Education**

- University programme to target future engineers and scientists and embed information about circular economy, re-use, and recycling into degree - which is currently lacking. Ideas about CE need to be introduced from the very start of the design process
- Proposal to provide free virtual CE short courses at WMG to gauge industrial interest in the current work force, which will also provide a foundation to build full courses. This conversation was made possible because of the board
- Also contacted outreach team about how we can get the impacts of CE (in terms of emissions reductions) to the public in a way that is easily understandable

#### **b. Recycling Coventry's Waste**

RH gave thanks to Colin Knight, Andrew Walster and Andy Williams, but especially CK. L looking into whether the city's plastic waste can be repurposed into materials for insulation panels or solar power. WMG research team put together with experts in the field of solar power and supply chain (Vanessa Goodship and Amruta Joshi) to get a better understanding about the requirements (both technological and practical), along with incentives required for uptake.

#### **c. Steel - closing the loop**

RH explained how most of UK's scrapped steel is exported for recycling. Poses two major issues: CO2e for shipping, as well as the countries being shipped to (Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan) - which currently have no ETS, landfill costs and low labour costs. Cannot be considered responsible recycling.

Would be better to recycle in the UK by sorting at the manufacturer level and collecting locally.

Spoken to Liberty Steel UK, CELSA Steel UK, West Midlands Metals and Materials Forum, along with local SMEs - all interested in taking the idea forward

Great potential to bring down Scope 3 emissions in the Coventry area

### **Circular Economy development pathway discussion**

RH stressed that he would not be able to do this (closed loop recycling project) alone and needs help, especially on where to start - to get the ball rolling in the West Midlands

MJ suggested that we start in Coventry

MR said that there is a mill in Black Country but no space. RH stated that no new mill is required it is more of an issue of how materials are collected sorted and stored. What we need is access to well sorted metal scraps.

JOB suggested we can share these details and set up a conference with all relevant companies.

Matthew reminded that companies are secretive about this data, and it is the role of the public sector to have demand pulling policies like requirement for products with a minimum recycled content.

PW stated that they were a major purchaser of solar panels (in reference to the section about using plastic waste for solar pv) and offered to connect RH to his team.

## **6. Member focussed presentations**

### **University of Warwick presented by Chris Ennew**

CE presented on the different approaches taken by the university to achieve sustainability.

#### **1. Education**

Sustainability is embedded in the curriculum, through focused programmes at all levels as well as being a core skill. Research focuses more on adaptation, mitigation and behavioural aspects rather than climate science. Sustainability runs across the GRPs with partnerships regionally, nationally and internationally.

#### **2. Sustainable campus**

- Main aims to reduce energy consumption, decarbonise energy supply, and to develop a smart resilient local energy system.
- Ecology and biodiversity plan approved - key focus to achieve ecology and biodiversity net gain. Projects include hedge laying, wildflower meadow creation, and tree planting along with continuous engagement in green spaces through student research projects and other initiatives.
- Warwick is a Carbon Literate Organisation - accreditation by the CLP to support the development of a carbon literate workforce.
- Transport is one of the biggest challenges - launching different programmes like Demand Response Transport (DRT) service, and cycle hire scheme (encouraging active travel).

### **Presentation discussion**

HS said he would like to introduce more colleagues who are working on projects so that we can build linkages and partnerships, also with interested companies. RH spoke about knowledge transfer programme with heat conversion project which he would like to implement on campus. JOB said that the objective of the CCB is to set up recommendations for the wider community. MR noted that some things are more transferable (from a university) to the city.

#### **7. Coventry City Council update presented by Colin Knight**

CK spoke about recognising council-wide coordination for current projects like solar farm, VLR, clean hub, and procurement of strategic partners. Also emphasised the importance of pursuing new opportunities. Proposed setting up a high-level dashboard on key projects with updates on challenges and progress.

All agreed to this proposal

#### **8. Member Survey Findings to date**

BW updated the Board on the member survey results

- Survey was undertaken to gain better understanding of member organisations outlook towards policy development.
- 12 responded with nearly 60% having set targets and 75% having a designated person responsible for addressing sustainability and climate change (50'5 fulltime).
- The survey provided insight upon organisations' carbon measurement habits, adoption of social value policy, and their understanding of the five pathways. Results seem to indicate that the low emissions pathway is considered the most important; resilience scored the least - could that be because it is the least understood?
- Key challenges were identified - which range from gathering data to scaling up smaller initiatives.

#### **Discussion**

RH stated that Scope 3 is difficult to measure and compare because there is no specific methodology or clear definitions. The University is working towards setting a standard for the country. HS reminded that an organisations' Scope 3 emissions is someone else's Scope 1 and 2. so an approach to reduce Scope 3 emissions could be support partnering organisations to reduce their Scope 1 and 2 emissions. RH to give an update with a proposal for how Members of the Board could share their current practice in measuring Scope 3 activities

#### **9. Communications and engagement –Darren O'Shaughnessy, Coventry City Council**

DOS spoke about setting up a CCB presence on the CCC website, if everyone agrees. Bios could be created for different board members and eventually, minutes (after removing sensitive information) could be shared with the public.

Plan to develop a media protocol with member organisations.

MJ and JOB to do an episode on GBP podcast – gain access to SMEs and companies on the Green Business Network

JOB recommended that bios should include a few projects that they're working on.

#### **10. AOB**

MJ proposed new membership of Environment Agency. BW to recommend.

MJ will contact virtual attendees to apologise for technical difficulties

BW to pursue progress with Chair of Equitable Person Centred Pathway Group including the wider remit for community engagement with Board  
CK proposed membership of a representative from construction - Carol Hardingham from Galliford Try.  
Still waiting on JLR  
Next pre-meet 5th of September, face-to-face 14th of September