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|  **Coventry’s Climate Change Board Meeting** |  |
| **Minutes:** |  |
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| Time and Date: Thursday 06th July 2023. 13:00 – 15:00 |
| Location: NAIC Boardroom, University of Warwick, and Microsoft Teams |

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| **Board members present** |  | **MS Teams** |
| Margot James (MJ) – Chair, WMG Cllr Jim O’Boyle (JO’B) -Vice Chair, Coventry City Council (CCC)Julie Nugent (JN) – CEO CCCRuss Hall (RH) - WMG Clare Wightman – CEO GrapevineSophie Mason (SM) – Coventry Building SocietyCharlotte Heeney (CH) – Severn Trent WaterCorin Crane (CC) – CW ChamberMatthew Rhodes (MR) – CamirusPaul Smith (PS) – Lloyds BankHelen Wheatley (HW) – Warwick Institute of engagement TeamKevin Rodgers (KR) – Citizen Housing |  |  | Lisa Hofen (LH) – Director of Facilities, Coventry University,Chris Ennew (CE) - WMGJemma Hodgson (JH) – WM Police. |
| **Non-Board members present**  |  | **Non-Board members on MS Teams** |
| Philip Wallace (PW) – Eon (deputising for Chris Lovatt)Nicola Edgar (NE) - Area Environment Mngr Environment Agency (deputising for Suzanne Ward)Claire Pointon (CP) - WMG Karl Curtis – (KC) Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (deputising for Ed Green)Becky Sellers (BS) – WMG Graduate ProgrammeAndy Williams (AW) - Director of Business, Investment & Culture, CCCColin Knight (CK) - Director of Transportation, Highways & Sustainability CCCRhian Palmer (RP) – Strategic Lead for Green Futures, CCCBret Willers (BW) – Head of Sustainability & Climate, CCCManjit Bath – Business Development Manager, CCC Kieran O’Sullivan (KOS) – Minutes CCC. |  |  | Hopi Sen (HS) – WMGDarren O’Shaughnessy (DO’S) –CCC Communications OfficerMarcelle Baston-Warner (MBW) – WMGSamantha Taylor (ST) – Canal and River Trust |
| **Apologies**  |
| Ngoni Mupandawana (NM) – Galliford TryChris Lovatt (ML) – EonAudrey O’Connor (AO) – Canal and River TrustSuzanne Ward (SW) - Area Environment Mngr Warwickshire &WMCA.Ed Green (EG) – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. |  |  |  |

1. **Welcome & Introductions:**

Welcome to new Board Members Julie Nugent, the CEO of CCC; Paul Smith, Area Director at Lloyds Bank Helen Wheatley, Director of Film and Television Studies at Warwick Institute of Engagement; Samantha Taylor, Canal and River Trust; Kevin Rodgers - CEO Citizen Housing; Karl Curtis, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Gemma Hodgson, WM Police. Note that Ngoni Mupandawana, Galliford Try is also joining the Board but sent apologies.

Cllr O’Boyle welcomed all Board Members and explained that CCC have invited all the big organisations, who have a direct and important sizable footprint within the city of Coventry, together to achieve the aspirations of the Climate Change Strategy and net zero.

The rest of the Board gave introductions.

1. **Minutes and Matters arising:**

MJ used this time to thank the chairs of the Pathway Groups and advised that regular meetings are now taking place between the chairs of each Group, and their colleagues within the groups, to formulate the recommendations of the CCB to CCC.

1. **Pathway Group Updates:**

**Adaptation and Resilience Pathway Group** – NE provided an update; she advised that the group is looking at ways to support the Council’s Local Plan Review by seeking the buy in from other commercial organisations and then coordinate a response to the planning consultation. Partnership meetings have taken place with Severn Trent and funding is being secured from CCC to support the development of the action plan. SW is coordinating analysis of data from organisations so:

**ACTION: A request for wider data will be sourced by the Adaptation and Resilience Pathway Group from other organisations within the CCB as part of the Adaptation and Resilience Plan.**

BW – The Adaptation and Resilience Pathway identified that it would need to bring in major network providers such as National Grid and Network Rail at key times in the year. E.g., in the summer when the heat had an effect on the rail lines.

**Agreement: MJ – It was agreed at the last Pathway Group Chairs meeting that the Fairer Green Futures Pathway Group would have a role across all the Pathway Groups.**

HW and CW and **the Fairer Green Futures Pathway** – (note that name has changed from equitable people-centred). The meeting focussed on the clarity of the growing membership. The purpose is to ensure equity in terms of energy security and accounting fair transition as we deliver the Climate Change action plan. Currently researching how other cities have an equitable approach and think about the unintended consequences of this work.

The group includes members from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and The Food Network, and we are working on growing initiatives and the issues of fair access to food and food growth across the City and working with CCC to hold a Community Food Growing Summit in September.

RP – **ACTION: Produce a summary document that pulls together what all the Pathway Groups are doing and track the progress of their actions meeting by meeting.**

MJ – There is so much activity going on this document would be beneficial ahead of the October CCB.

RH and the **Circular Development Pathway Group** – Several projects taking place and a case study on Thorlux (an exemplar light manufacturer transition to a circular business model) will be shared later.

CCC now has a PM on the Circular Development of ICT equipment of domestic and commercial products and are working with Tech Exchange, who were given premises by Bournemouth City Council, to recycle the equipment and teach customers how to use the new equipment, improving digital literacy. CCC working with Coventry Trophy Centre on an initiative for children, helping them pick out what can be recycled and using these as medals for a marathon – a great message for children. Another potential project to be explored is recycling plastic for use in construction e.g., paving slabs similar to a project at Belfast University.

1. **Update from the Pathway Workshops**

BW - The Pathway Groups are analysing where we are currently at and how we are working, and do we need to do anything differently in the future, and what are the future opportunities? SWOT analysis around how the groups currently work, and any issues or uncertainties within the groups, is taking place and then agreement on the next steps of each group and how this should feed back to the CCB.

**Action: A detailed document following the Pathway Group Workshop on 03/07/2023 will be circulated by BW to Board Members.**

BW shared snippets of how an effective CCB and Pathway Groups should look and feel, specific recommendations will be included in the Pathway Group Workshop Document, and how this will affect activity of the CCB. CCC will coordinate the activity and support and develop the pathway groups and a benchmark dashboard will be created to monitor and assess the key impacts and issues of the CCB.

1. **Update Consultation Responses from the Draft Climate Change Strategy:**

 RP – The Public Consultation Feedback Update Presentation was shared with the Board.

Public consultation was launched in February and the consultation period was extended to 07/07/2023 to do further community engagement at events such as Motofest and Godiva Festival however not a huge number of responses received, which is not uncommon with a new strategy.

**ACTION: Input from the CCB on how we can broaden the reach and encourage more community engagement.**

**ACTION: All CCB Members to respond to Climate Change Strategy ahead of the 07/07/2023 deadline either via email or the survey link.**

RP shared the profile of respondents received to date, and the split, and where CCC need to focus their efforts as response rates do not reflect the stats of the city’s range of ages and ethnicity. One of the top themes the public would like to see is items such as traffic and transport and green space and development and home improvements. Retrofitting and upfront costs of home improvements was a concern for residents. The finalised report will be published in August and the next focus for the climate change strategy will be updating a strategy based on feedback, alongside developing an action plan. A Climate Change Newsletter for the city will be developed.

**ACTION: Climate Change Strategy newsletter and consultation report to be circulated with CCB Members.**

**ACTION: To meet with Leeds City Council, who received 8000 responses from the public (over 80+ engagement events) and understand how they reached so many members of the public and reach community groups.**

RP – We are going to target the end of 2023 to complete the updating of the Strategy, that’s important because we can then reflect on the recommendation of the CCB’s feedback and the public consultation and make sure this is integrated aligned with the Net Zero Routemap, alongside the SEP’s Business Plan.

RP – There are a number of key strategies and policies that the Council are leading on that are opportunities for the CCB to be engaged and influence. This includes the Local Plan Review and ensure we go beyond building regs, the Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, Domestic Retrofit Policy, and heritage issues, City Centre South, Devolution Deal, Community Food Growing summit and the Green Space Strategy.

Cllr O’Boyle advised Board that the Council are procuring a Strategy Energy Partner, who is due to be appointed in September. This presents a significant opportunity for investment in the city and for us to scale up our delivery of decarbonisation projects. We will provide more detail at the next Board.

CC – CW Chamber can assist in stakeholder engagement by arranging a Zoom call with their Comms Department and confirm how they reach different community groups during the 20 – 30 events they hold yearly in Coventry.

**ACTION: RP and CC to meet offline re: holding a virtual meeting with CCC comms and CW Chamber comms on public engagement.**

RH – UoW have ties with Canley and Tile Hill resident’s networks so could be used as part of the public engagement.

**ACTION: RH to put RP in contact with Stephanie at UoW who deals with Resident and Student community groups.**

CE confirmed that UoW /WMG and vice Chancellor signed off a letter responding to the consultation which includes a detailed and constructive response to the Climate Change Strategy and will be ready ahead of the deadline.

1. **Getting Coventry to Net Zero**

Ed Green’s presentation on the Nature Based Pathway Group update and Brandon Wood Golf Course (BWGC) and Getting Coventry to Net Zero presentation was shared with the Board.

MJ asked how the accessibility point to Brandon Woods Golf Course require improvement and how the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust propose to encourage people to visit.

KC – There is potential to work with National Highways to develop a green bridge across the A45 and discussions have already taken place re: their major infrastructure grant funding.

MJ – Would you consider including a premium in any philanthropic investment or funding opportunities to pay for these accessibility issues?

KC – You couldn’t build the cost in within the biodiversity net gain, but you could use the surplus aspect of it for looking at a feasibility study for green transport or green bridges.

CK – There is an opportunity with National Highways to look at an active travel accessible network to Coombe Abbey and Brandon Marsh as part of an overarching active travel plan for this corridor.

JN – Currently there are several different options on the table for BWGC and how CCC might look at developing that alongside the opportunity for commercial gain.

KC – We understand that this is the decision for CCC however it is essential to understand or confirm whether the CCB would endorse the proposal, and the reasons behind it, and consider it as option on the table.

AW – Has consideration been given to other parts of the city to increase biodiversity within Coventry?

KC – There are 5 or 6 other nature reserves within the city boundaries however they are already high value biodiversity sites so not a lot of additional net gain can be achieved. Other green spaces could be considered for net gain but needs to deliver high integrity.

MJ – It is not feasible for the CCB to decide today on whether this can be considered as an option for BWGC given the other options on the table and that this is CCC-owned land in Warwickshire, particularly when we know there is a significant challenge within Coventry around lack of accessibility to green space.

JN confirmed there are several months before CCC will make a decision on the use of BWGC and a deeper conversation is required on developing green spaces within the city boundaries.

JO’B – This proposal is exactly what I would expect to be brought to the CCB in discussion on how to achieve net zero but there is currently no pressure from CCC to decide on the proposal until all the questions re: the accessibility and advantages to the residents of Coventry are fully investigated.

**ACTION: The CCB to facilitate a site visit to BWGC for Members.**

CK – Biodiversity and net gain is an opportunity to revisit urban rainforests in the Coventry highways network. RP is in conversation with Coventry Urban Eden.

1. **Thorlux based in Redditch, An Exemplar – Light manufacturer transition to a circular business model.**

MBW shared a presentation on the KTP Project ‘Embedding Circular Economy Principles into Business Operations’ that WMG and Thorlux Lighting are working on.

**See slide deck.**

MJ – Any questions or feedback can be fed back via Mark Smith of WMG or RH.

1. **Low Emissions Pathway**

PW shared the Low Emissions Pathway update presentation with the CCB.

**See slide deck.**

PW - An obligation of E.ON, as part of the CCB, was to deploy a percentage of revenue into improving the building fabric of homes to help alleviate fuel poverty in Coventry and 25% of the homes in the city fit into that bracket. The focus is now on SMEs and supporting the 75% of residents in the ‘able to pay’ bracket but cannot afford to make these improvements to their homes. Together with CCC we are reaching the residents in most need of support. ECO 4 support can be accessed via the CCC website.

The Low Emissions Pathway Group are working with Coventry Building Society on targeting that 75% of the city that cannot afford to retrofit their homes and SMEs which face challenges.

PW - E.ON worked closely with Motofest and this year set up a Future Transport Summit and roundtable event.

RH – E.ON, in association with CCC are submitting a bid to Innovate UK Local Industry Decarbonisation Plans to address a lot of the SMEs and then create a model which can be used city wide.

MJ – We would like the CCB to engage with Lloyds to ensure that SMEs understand what funding is available to them.

**ACTION: PW and PS to meet offline re: the support how Lloyds Bank can help support SMEs.**

PS – How can we collaboratively get individuals and SMEs to act and make a bigger difference?

**ACTION: PS to attend the next Low Emissions Pathway Group meeting.**

**ACTION: CH to meet with PW offline and attend a Low Emissions Pathway Group to collaborate Severn Trent and E.ON re: heat exchanges.**

1. **Adaptation and Resilience Plan & The Review of the Local Plan**

BW – CCC are in the process of identifying all the data required for the Adaptation and Resilience and the Local Plan Review.

BW – A report is going to Cabinet on 11/07/2023 seeking permission for consultation in relation to the plan (an 8-week statuary consultation period)

**ACTION: The CCB Members will be required to mobilise data around the Local Plan at short notice. A separate meeting will be scheduled by CCC for CCB Members to attend re: The Local Plan Review.**

1. **AOB**

**ACTION: Schedule a site visit to the Sherbourne Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)**

 **DONM:** Thursday 05th October 1pm-3pm – New Venue: Friargate ,M1.4 – 1.5