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|  | | **Climate Change Board** | **Green Programme Board** |
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| Date and Time: | Thursday 09 May 2024  13.30 – 15.30pm | |  |
| Venue: | Coventry City Council – Friargate / Microsoft Teams | |  |
| Attendees:  Attendees online:  Apologies: | Margot James (Chair) - WMG, University of Warwick  Chris Lovatt - E.ON  Samantha Taylor - Canal and Rivers Trust  Russ Hall - WMG, University of Warwick  Rachel Jones - Act On Energy  Clare Wightman – Grapevine  Helen Wheatley – Institute of Engagement  Professor Stephanie Panichelli - University of Warwick  Ed Green – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  Matthew Rhodes – Camirus  **Coventry City Council**  Cllr Jim O'Boyle  Andy Williams  Colin Knight  Rhian Palmer  Bret Willers  Manjit Bath  Darren O’Shaugnessy  Julie Fairbrother  Sam Pinfield  Sophie Mason – Coventry Building Society (online)  Sarah Windrum – Horiba Mira, (online)  Ngoni Mupandawana, – Galliford Try (online)  Michael Checkley – Coventry University (Online)  Anna Smith – Coventry Building Society (Online)  Clive Robinson – University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire (online)  Julie Nugent – Coventry City Council  Zain Javed, Jemma Hodgson – West Midlands Police  Nicola Edgar – Environment Agency  Philip Wallace – E.ON,  Corin Crane – Coventry & Warks Chamber of Commerce  Lisa Hofen – Coventry University  Charlotte Heeney - Severn Trent Water  Suzanne Ward - Environment Agency  Kevin Rodgers – Citizen Housing,  Paul Smith – Lloyds Bank | |  |
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|  | **Welcome, apologies, new introduction & council’s restructure update – Margot James (Chair)**   * MJ welcomed all to the meeting. * MJ welcomed Professor Stephanie Panichelli from the University of Warwick. Stephanie provided an update on her role which is the Academic Director for Sustainability incorporating operations, research, and teaching. * AWi provided an update on the restructure within the Council advising that portfolios had moved. The Climate Change & Sustainability team now report into him as Regeneration & Economy Director. CKn advised that he has a new role as Director of Innovation, which will pursue innovation projects and those projects that benefit sustainability e.g. transport, Very Light Rail. MJ welcomed the changes and the senior focus this provides on the Climate change and sustainability agenda. |  |
|  | **Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Action Plan update - Rhian Palmer (Strategic Lead - Green Futures – Coventry City Council)**   * RP provided an update on the Climate Change Strategy and delivery action plan as per the slides. * RP shared a slide that illustrates how the Climate Change Strategy links to other Council strategies, plans and projects and to update the Board on the huge amount of work going on across the city that links into the Strategy. * One of the Council’s top three priorities is tackling the cause and consequence of climate change, and the strategy is the response to that. * Under the Low Emissions Pathway sits key areas including the Strategic Energy Partnership, for which strategic and annual business plans were recently approved at the Council’s Shareholder committee (summary can be found here [Strategic Energy Partnership business plan summary 2024 – Coventry City Council)](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/7839/strategic-energy-partnership-business-plan-summary-2024). This sets out the ambitions and aligns closely to the climate change strategy and action plan. * Transport strategy is a key strand as 27% emissions come from transport– close work ongoing with the Transport team. * There is a brilliant decarbonisation business programme working across the city and Warwickshire, providing advice to businesses on carbon reduction and cutting energy bills and providing grants for energy efficiency measures for SMEs up to £100k. * The Adaptation and Resilience Pathway is working with the Council to drive forwards a new Adaptation and Resilience strategy for Coventry. There was a stakeholder meeting in the Transport Museum 09/05/2024 which was really well attended to start this journey, the outputs of this will be captured in the action plan and that there are investible, measurable, smart projects. * There are a number of different nature-based strategies in development; the local nature recovery strategy which the combined authority is leading on, alongside the Local Investment in Natural Capital Programme through a Defra funded pilot to develop a prospectus for the West Midlands looking at natural Capital. Coventry has submitted the first set of projects, including a bid for an accelerator fund for the river Sherbourne corridor. There is also the urban forestry strategy, whereby 360,000 trees will be planted by 2032. * Under Circular Economy the Council will prepare a new the Waste Strategy, which will respond to changes in government legislation around waste policy and tie in closely with the recommendations of the Circular Economy Pathway Group. * Fairer Green Futures - There is a workshop planned on ‘Just Transition’ next month, looking at how across all of the strategies and interventions and to make sure economic opportunities are not missed. * Community engagement is a key theme this can be embedded throughout, and a Comms and Engagement Plan will be developed to ensure a consistent approach to engagement for all projects. * A Climate Change Action Plan is being developed alongside the Strategy which will be used to help Board monitor progress on actions. Actions will be measured and reported bi- annually through the Council's one Coventry Performance Framework. * There are some key policies that will help support delivery of the Strategy across all Pathways, this includes the Local Plan Review which is ongoing. Work is underway to develop a City Vision for 2050, setting out what the Coventry of the future is going to look like, being led by the architects ‘Gensler’. Sustainability is a key theme within the plan– this will be brought back to a future board meeting. It links to the work that is being done with SEP, adaptation, resilience, nature and brings everything together in terms of what the future city needs to look like. * The Council are developing a Place Based Strategy in response to the Deeper Devolution Deal, there is a really good opportunity to look at what the local asks are for the city and unlock funding opportunities through the single settlement. The new funding arrangement will give the Council more flexibility to spend net zero funding alongside other funded programmes across the region. * Green and blue plan - an audit has been undertaken to see how many strategies there are linked to our green and blue spaces. There is over 20 so there is a desire to reduce that and have a consistent and principled approach to how green and blue space is addressed in terms of land planning; looking at biodiversity net gain opportunities, and also considering how we can use our land to meet our net zero goals – including for renewables. * With regards to the Climate Change Strategy, all of the recommendations have now been received from the pathway chairs. RP thanked everyone for their efforts. * The strategy is being finalised and the action plan developed. The intention is to bring that to the next board. Thereafter, it will go to Cabinet in the summer for approval. * RP concluded that progress on the strategy is behind where she would like it however, resources have been a challenge against the backdrop of other activity the team are working on that supports the development of actions identified in the Strategy. It is critical to get this right and ensure it is robust. * MJ thanked Rhian for the clear overview. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received. |  |
| **3.** | **Structure and Role of the Climate Change Board - Rhian Palmer (Strategic Lead - Green Futures, Coventry City Council)**   * RP reminded the meeting that the purpose of the Board was to help shape the strategy, the Board was launched in 2021. * Representation has grown to over 25 organisations across the City. * There has been very good projects and initiatives developed on the back of the pathway groups e.g. SEP, Digital recycling project, Just transition, where the work done so far in Coventry has been trailblazing. * RP thanked everyone for their commitment and hard work on the recommendations which have now been reached. * There should now be focus on what is next for Board – the strategy will be launched in the summer and the next phase should be delivering on the strategy and the action plan. RP proposed that the Board should take on a check and challenge role, monitoring progress, holding to account, assisting to tackle barriers and identify opportunities. Community engagement is particularly important. * In practical terms, there are proposals to reduce Board meetings to 3 per year – it is about getting the balance right of people’s time. There has been a session with the Pathways chairs to discuss where they are and what’s needed looking forwards. * There are opportunities for cross pathway group working on projects, one of the things the Council is doing is reviewing resources to support the action plan and pathway groups. * The proposal is to use the July Board to present the strategy and action plan and agree what the next steps are for the Board. * MJ advised that she had attended the pathway meeting – she noted frustration from some at the time that some things take. All pathway chairs are giving their own time, which has not been easy, but there is also positive feeling that strategy and action plan has been formed; there is a commitment that people want to help. * MJ added that she thought it was good that the Council may be able to offer more resources and she thanked all Council officers present. * MJ added that there is direction from the Council, a commitment to the 2030 milestone of a 55% reduction in emissions against 1990 levels, which is a result of Coventry’s commitment as a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors. The organisations represented on the pathway groups have all declared a climate emergency with targets that go beyond 2030. There is a big commitment on the part of the of the Council, not just to the emissions target, but also to be a leading player in the green industrial revolution and leading the development of green skills. This agenda gives the Board a lot to go for, especially with some of the government policies affecting the region, particularly the investment zone and green transport, * There's also the opportunity that there are some external sources of funding that require a partnership approach and the Board represents a ready-made partnership. * Cllr O’Boyle commented that the group is made up of volunteers outside of authority and offered his thanks. * Cllr O’Boyle added that as we move to June/ July and the final strategy is ready it would be useful and helpful if partners could help lead on engagement as this demonstrates partnership. * CL asked that as we are now in delivery mode, are there any key things missing that would accelerate delivery e.g. Planning? Cllr O’Boyle agreed and advised that there is some work on this, and Planning should come to a future Board.   **Action: Planning to come to a future meeting to give an update on Local Plan Review as well as to hear an overview of the position of the Board to help them understand where they may be able to unlock planning constraints and support delivery wherever possible.**   * EG commented that it will be helpful to see the final strategy prior to being able to convey any messaging as this would help broaden its reach. He asked if there is a communication plan. JF advised that there is an emerging comms and engagement plan, and timing is important. She would also like comms to attend pathway group meetings. The strategy will be shared at 11th July meeting and will then go via the Political process. * HW advised that she had a slight concern about the separation of Just Transition and community engagement – communities need to be involved in engagement process. MJ reminded the group that a great deal of consultation had already taken place. RP added that there will be comms launch with the strategy; plus, the development of the Comms and Engagement Strategy which will see Just Transition and comms engagement interwoven into all projects and ensure there is a consistent approach to engagement. JF added that the action plan will support this. |  |
| **4.** | **Update on Hubbub Grant Funding Bid - Digital Recycling Project, National Lottery Climate Action Fund - Bret Willers (Head of Climate Change & Sustainability, Coventry City Council)**   * BW gave a PowerPoint presentation about the work of the Pathway Groups and Board working in partnership with the City Council in an effort to secure funding and resources to deliver activities and programmes which address issues affecting sustainability and climate change * BW advised the Board that the partnership is submitting and securing bids for funding and resources. One of the recent funding programmes applied for will enable the Circular Economy Pathway Team to scale up its re-use of redundant Laptops and ICT equipment from the Universities, NHS and   Coventry City Council. Information concerning the awarding of funds is currently embargoed although a very good result would appear to be in the offing.   * BW added that as a Marmot City the City Council is the first of a select number of Local Authorities across the UK that has been awarded funding by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to establish the governance and infrastructure to undertake applied research into matters which impact upon the wider determinants of Health. BW gave an outline of three partnership bids. * An application for UKRI Funding to monitor indoor air quality (including pollutants from gas and wood fuelled fires) condensation & damp and how these are affected by domestic retrofit activities. Citizen Housing, The University of Birmingham, Birmingham City Council, Coventry City Council (Public Health, Housing Enforcement and the Retrofit Team) and others will benefit from the research that will help to inform the implementation of future retrofit programmes for households where condensation damp and mould have prevented low-income families living in the worst conditions from benefitting from retrofit funding; * An application to the Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRC) from the University of Warwick, the Royal College of Physicians, Act on Energy and Citizen Housing to carry out a detailed market segmentation and focus group analysis of the barriers to the uptake of retrofit grants from the public. Individual households across the city are currently not benefitting from the funding opportunities on offer. This applied research will enable more effective and targeted messaging in a much smarter, better-informed way to increase the uptake of grants with the resulting income and health benefits to the population. * Other applications from the Universities to assist sustainability projects including biodiversity monitoring and the development and access to Greenspace. * BW highlighted the fact that there is considerable interest in Coventry’s approach to what are long standing issues of national interest as the Teams are trying to address issues that are fundamental to the success of retrofit programmes. * The Behavioural Economics Team at Warwick University working with the City Council’s Retrofit Team, Act On Energy, community artists and the teaching staff at St Augustin’s School recently secured funding for a pilot project aimed at utilising the insulation theme in the National Curriculum to engage schoolchildren and their parents in understanding more about energy efficiency in the home and how they can benefit from the uptake of grants. There has been a piece of work completed with St Augustine school which looks at behaviour change in terms of attitudes and awareness around energy efficiency. It provided an opportunity to target work with residents and helped to inform the funding application described above. * The National lottery community fund strategy runs until 2030 and it covers a number of things the Climate Change Board Partnership is working to. Address. National Lottery are looking at investing in proposals that make a difference. Only two briefing sessions have been held online to date. BW has asked National Lottery to identify which areas have benefited less than the national average across the city and asked if they can hold for a Coventry specific session for the community organisations across the City many of whom would not have benefited from Lottery Funding in the past. * The Fund is for is approximately 25 projects (each lasting from 3 to 5yrs), £20 million with a two-stage application process and the deadline for outline submissions likely to be the end of this calendar year. The fund is intended to engage people who have not had much engagement in sustainability and climate change issues in the past. BW says that this fund is ideal for addressing a Just Transition agenda. * MJ thanked BW for the efforts to date. She added that the resource the Council has in writing bids and sorting through fundraising challenges will be welcome and should be advantageous to the Group. * HW commented that she will contact BW on this. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received. |  |
| **5.** | **Update from Coventry’s Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) *Chris Lovatt* (Chief Operating Officer- Energy Infrastructure Services, E. ON)**   * CL presented his slides. * SEP – Running since September 23, 12 programmes of work which sit across key themes to produce clean local energy, develop skills and jobs in the sector, work on innovative projects that can be shouted about nationally.      * CL provided an overview of the projects in flight and advised that the next one going into delivery phase is the Council building decarbonisation programme. * There is good progress overall, working with partners such as Act on Energy on Home Upgrade Grant and ECO. These are national funding programmes to deliver energy efficiency measures anywhere in the U.K. £10 million worth of energy efficiency measures have been deployed into Coventry across about 50 homes. Some of them have been used as exemplars and ECO hasn't been without its challenges nationally and Coventry is no exception. * The Home Upgrade Grant has smaller numbers of uptake, 100 people have applied for this scheme only 15 have completed because eligibility states that the resident needs to be off gas. This is not a reason to give up however as there is more optimism about next stage LARS scheme which will bring in customers on gas, but at present the project is running out of eligible homes. * Next piece of work is to look at the Energy Masterplan for the City, everything from how commercial and public sector buildings are decarbonised, treatments for residential buildings, the EV strategy for the city, how renewable power in the city is regenerated. RP added that as part of this there will be a number of stakeholder engagement sessions, some which will involve Board members. Policy changes are also being considered in terms of how we can support delivery of the Masterplan. * There are some local opportunities in Coventry such as identifying sources of waste heat which Coventry has already got a good, albeit small district heating system from the waste plant energy. There will be other opportunities to identify sources of waste heat and use them more effectively. * CL provided more detail on what some of the projects are that are under delivery - projects that are in the early stages of financial approval, making sure they're viable and planning is a factor. Other projects relate to the social value fund to help wider community engagement. Projects are managed through the SEP Board governance process. * There is also a decent chunk of funding to set up a network of community programmes across the city, to deliver on social value. * EON are really keen to deploy national marketing, branding and funds in the Coventry area. EON will support both Godiva and Motofest 2024 which are big opportunities for community engagement. * CK –advised that Motofest is being held the weekend of the 1st/2nd of June, but on the Friday there will be an industry day with a round table led by E.ON.. There will be a number of new technologies on display including drones and autonomous vehicles. * CL advised that John Bernard – Coventry’s Poet Laureate had produced a piece on Coventry which will be used nationally. The group watched the video and all found it inspiring. <https://www.eonenergy.com/our-blog/sparking-a-light.html> * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received |  |
| **6.** | **Pathway Group Updates (all Chairs) Focus for 2024 for each Pathway Group**  **and recommendations to the Board to further progress the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. (Pathway Group Chairs)** |  |
| **6.1** | **Low Emissions** **– *Rachel Jones* (CEO - Act on Energy)**   * RJ presented her update as per the slides. * RJ advised that the second low emissions pathway group meeting has been held. * The group is closely linking with other partnerships and other pathways. There is a lot of the crossover, particularly around the housing and retrofit agenda, and one of the things being worked is the health engagement piece. New members have joined from public health and also from the integrated care system. * Vulnerable households and those communities are being looked at, understanding barriers specifically to retrofit and to housing, why people aren't taking up retrofit measures, looking at the segmentation across the city using the ACORN segmentation datasets. RJ referred to the funding bid BW mentioned earlier. * Next meeting will be on housing again and then move across different subject areas e.g. Transport. * MJ advised that she appreciated that there are several pathways in this area, but it is great that there is good support from EON and the Council. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received |  |
| **6.2** | **Circular Economy – *Russ Hall* (Senior Research Fellow, WMG)**   * RH presented his slides. * Money has been secured with Laura Waller in the Council’s Coventry Digital Connects Team doing a lot of work in Partnership with the Pathway Group and the Sustainability Team to achieve this. * It is enough money so the NHS will be donating devices cc1500 units and technicians are being recruited to work on the laptops. * WMG are helping with carbon accounting, measuring emissions differences -starting Jul 24. * Great project and PR for the City Partnership, helping people get connected to the Internet but it won’t move the needle in terms of Climate Change as it’s not big enough, so RH wants to think about what a big project looks like. There are vast opportunities to put private investment into the City to help national security issues. What can we do to turn Coventry into the heart of electrical recycling? Electric motors – what do we need to do to grow this out of Coventry as we already have battery centre and car manufacturing heritage. RH would like to spend some time investigating and thinking about this. * Another small win is that there are talks with the hospital, to help get more sustainable transport boxes for transplants and storing medicines to replace the current polystyrene versions. It's not a big project, 100 boxes a year but if it is proved successful in Coventry, then its input around every hospital around the country could be quite significant, with Coventry once again playing a leading role. * The other priority for the pathway group is to work on behavioural change. An awful lot of circular economy for the city is about the public not understanding why recycling is important, why we should reuse and what can be done and if we can provide data to help with that behaviour change. * MJ thanked RJ for his inspiring contribution, adding that it is great that funding for the project has been received and expressed a very big thank you to Laura Waller for her efforts and the Group for their support. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received. |  |
| **6.3** | **Resilience & Adaptation -** ***Bret Willers* (Head of Climate Change & Sustainability** **- Coventry City Council)**   * BW provided his update. * CAG consultants With Sustainability West Midlands and Slingshot Simulations have been appointed to assess the key risks produce model simulations in terms of Climate Change and extreme weather patterns. * Work has started to get a baseline and mapping key environmental data on GIS to enable and we are now in the process of identifying key risks. * Workshop held 08/05/2024 with a range of organisations attending, looking at health, built environment, infrastructure. This will be followed up with a series of interviews with the consultants. Work done by August. * BW advised that Coventry City Council is one of DEFRA’s national pilot authorities for looking at ways to manage performance in addressing adaptation and resilience. WMCA is also a pilot, this provides an opportunity to look at the relationships between the local and regional perspectives and this work could also help to inform how WMCA allocates funding for Adaptation and Resilience issues. * BW advised that Coventry City Council’s pilot status has the additional support from the Met Office who will assist with forecasting and providing data for different climate change scenarios.      * The resilience and adaptation meeting also looked at several projects that can be delivered on the ground. Commitments and proposals from the Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent were presented at that meeting where all present were considering ways of making sure we created a more resilient City, which values greenspace and the importance of environmental protection for addressing health issues, a chance to test bed changes in urban design to see what it can do to address risks and make Coventry a better safer place to live. The meeting also started to think of future investment and opportunities for future pathways. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received. |  |
| **6.4** | **Fairer Green Futures** **- *Clare Wightman* (CEO - Grapevine) & *Professor Helen***   ***Wheatley* (Academic Director, Warwick Institute of Engagement)**   * HW advised that there has been a lot of diaries wrangling to figure out time to review the report that had been commissioned and how this works for just transition. There is a workshop at One Friargate next month on Thursday the 13th June 2:00pm to 5:30pm to bottom this out and then work can commence. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received. |  |
| **6.5** | **Nature Based** – ***Ed Green* (CEO, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)**   * Pathway group recognised that despite having met regularly over the last 12 months there have been no new proposals/ projects. The meeting last week, acted as a mini summit and reflected on this. MJ and RP were present, and Partners provided feedback. Overall, there is a high degree of optimism to continue with process but there are a few things that need to be fixed. * MJ advised that the meeting was constructive and looks forward to an action phase. * MJ asked if anybody had any questions, none were received. |  |
| **6.** | **AOB**   * Next meeting 11th July 2024 – Friargate * MJ – Thanked everyone for the contributions and closed the meeting. |  |