

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting

<b>Date</b>	10 / 11 / 2020
<b>Time</b>	14.30 - 16.00
<b>Location</b>	Web Ex Video Conference
<b>Present</b>	Cllr Gwyneth Kensler (GK); Cllr Bobby Feeley (BF); Cllr Barry Mellor (BM); Cllr Brian Jones (BJ); Cllr Arwel Roberts (AR); Cllr Graham Timms (GT); Cllr Joe Welch (CJW); Cllr Tony Thomas (TT)
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Bobby Feeley (BF), Nicola Kneale (NK)
<b>In attendance</b>	Supporting Officers: Judith Greenhalgh (JG), Helen Vaughan-Evans (HVE), Tom Booty (TB); Howard Sutcliffe (HS); Liz Wilcox-Jones (LWJ); Andrew Cutts (AC); Chris Brown (CB), Heidi Barton-Price (HBP), Joel Walley (JW), Louise Dougal (LD), Mike Jones (MJ), Tony Ward (TW)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Chair GT welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

### 2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Minutes of last meeting agreed as accurate.

Actions of last meeting reviewed and update provided by HVE. See summary table below.

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 10.11.20

ACTION	UPDATE
<p><b>LWJ / HVE-</b> to continue with plans for website, discussion forum and public consultation.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website- completed, launched in Wales Climate Week</li> <li>Discussion Forum- due to launch in December</li> <li>Public Consultation- on track for launch on Monday 16th November</li> </ul>
<p><b>HS / LWJ–</b> Draft letter for Cllr Tony Thomas and Cllr Graham Timm’s review to the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent asking what they are doing to mitigate the loss of trees (particularly mature trees) once felled along the A55. Letter to be sent from this working group under GT name and from the AONB under TT name.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter been drafted by LWJ and with Members for sign off</li> </ul>
<p><b>HVE / GT / BJ / TT –</b> Provide highlights / key elements learnt from CAT training for discussion at next meeting.</p>	<p><b>ON AGENDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GT leading the feedback</li> </ul>
<p><b>RH –</b> send HVE the WGES Annual Report to share with the group.</p>	<p><b>COMPLETED</b></p>

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 10.11.20

ACTION	UPDATE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sent within meeting papers email</li> </ul>
<b>RP</b> – send HVE information regarding WG Climate week newsletter and event registration link to share with the group.	<b>COMPLETED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sent via email</li> </ul>
<b>RP</b> – to provide contact details for the land use lead at Welsh Government for DCC representatives to have a meeting.	<b>ONGOING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HVE has requested on email</li> </ul>
<b>HS</b> – send Natural Resource Wales Blue Carbon report to the group.	<b>ONGOING</b>
<b>HVE</b> - make changes to the strategy document in light of feedback.	<b>COMPLETED</b>
<b>HVE / LWJ</b> - to produce youth friendly, easy read and infographic versions of the strategy working with colleagues/external providers.	<b>ONGOING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Friendly- Completed</li> <li>Infographic- Final draft stage ready for translation</li> <li>Easy Read- First draft stage</li> </ul>

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 10.11.20

ACTION	UPDATE
<b>HVE</b> – to send strategy/consultation info to all Chair of Governors.	<b>ONGOING</b>
<b>LWJ</b> – add GT, BJ and TT to School/Youth Council meeting liaising with the meeting organiser.	<b>COMPLETED</b>
<b>LWJ</b> – to request a longer slot at School/Youth Council meeting.	<b>COMPLETED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now have 30 minutes</li> </ul>

### Review of draft letter to Lesley Griffiths AM

HVE took the group through the letter as currently drafted.

Feedback included: more dynamic, mention specific projects, mention request to work with civil servants within Decarbonisation and Land Use and Ecology Departments, mention civil servants by name.

Draft will be reviewed by BJ and sent when ready. Discussion that this should be after Climate and Ecological Change Strategy is approved.

#### **ACTIONS:**

**HVE** – to make changes to the letter and send to BJ for review.

# Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

## Group meeting; 10.11.20

### Highlights and key learning from the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) Zero Carbon Britain Training

GT took the group through the key elements gained from the course via a presentation.

Key areas covered included:

- General overview of the problem
- 'Powering down' – reducing energy demand
- 'Powering up' – increasing dependence on sustainable energy
- Diet and land use

Key speakers included:

- Andrews Simms on Rapid transition <https://www.rapidtransition.org>
- Rob Hopkins on From What Is to What If <https://transitionnetwork.org>

Full Zero Carbon Britain Report by CAT available here: <https://www.cat.org.uk/info-resources/zero-carbon-britain/research-reports/zero-carbon-britain-rising-to-the-climate-emergency/>

### Matter arising

GK asked about catering in schools to reduce meat in menus as low carbon meal options. TW noted that schools don't have to use us as caterers and any changes to menus would need to be done in partnership with our customers i.e. the schools. TW happy to look further into low carbon menus for school dinners. Discussion around the potential contentiousness of reducing intake of meat particularly with the prominence of agriculture as an industry in Wales.

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 10.11.20

### ACTIONS:

**TW** - to discuss with Nigel Highfield in Facilities Management about introducing low carbon menus and bring back thoughts to the group.

**HVE** - to send low carbon menu examples by CAT to TW

### 3. Themed discussion on Travel- our own fleet, business miles and staff commute

The group heard from 3 speakers on different topics on the theme of Travel.

	Business Travel & Staff Commute	Fleet	Wider Denbighshire
<b>2019/20 carbon baseline</b>	BT- 550 tCO <sub>2</sub> e SC- 1,848 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	2,693 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	N/A
<b>2030 reduction target</b>	BT- 80% SC- 55%	60%	N/A (will support business travel, staff commute and fleet targets)
<b>Verbal Update from</b>	Catrin Roberts (HR Services Manager) on <b>New Ways of Working COVID 19 Recovery Theme</b>	Chris Brown (Fleet Manager) on <b>EV's and Corporate Charging Infrastructure</b>	Mike Jones (Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager) on <b>Public EV Charging Infrastructure</b>

#### Public EV Charging Points

MJ took the group through the Council's work in installing Public EV Charging points.

Initial feasibility study of 52 identified car park sites funded by Cadwyn Clwyd.

# Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

## Group meeting; 10.11.20

Each site ranked as high, medium and low priority and 9 were identified as high priority with a good geographic coverage across the county

36% of vehicles are not parked off street and therefore could affect people purchasing an EV vehicle. Grant available.

£84k of DCC funding has been requested in 2021/22 budget to help fund Public EV Charging points pilot.

This can be supplemented by £45k in applications to Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV) grant funding.

Identify best model and create system where public and DCC fleet vehicles can use whilst considering the length of stay required e.g. whilst shopping, etc.

Next step to complete OLEV bid, engage with stakeholders, start Traffic Order changes with the view to install charging points during financial year 2021/22.

### Reducing Carbon from DCC Fleet

CB took the group through DCC fleet and the plan to reduce the carbon emitted by our vehicles.

Strategy required to achieve this. Currently have 14 fast vehicle chargers at 7 locations (3 at main offices and 4 operational depots).

In addition, several small EV vehicles have been bought which operate from 5 of the locations.

Currently no budget to develop this EV infrastructure further for 2020/21. However, there is an EV end of life replacement policy in place.

A 1-week trial on an EV refuse vehicle has been carried out. Relatively successful but put a great demand on the electricity capacity of the depot which needs to be addressed and the initial outlay is 3 times the cost of a standard refuse vehicle.

# Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

## Group meeting; 10.11.20

EV ride on mowers can be a real option when current vehicles need replacing.

After 2025 the public sector should only be buying Ultra Low Emission cars and small vans (EV's) to comply with Welsh Government policy. The target for large vehicles (e.g. gritters, bin lorries) is 2030.

### Reducing carbon from Business Travel and Commuting

LD took the group through the remote and flexible working project.

Project has come out of the Covid Recovery Theme Plan and been discussed with union colleagues. Lead officer is Alan Smith and Lead member is Cllr Richard Mainon.

Main recovery themes – virtual working, CAG access (increased from 200 to nearly 1600 users successfully), democratic benefits to this change included reduction in business mileage and the time commitment involved in this.

The hope is for these new ways of working to be maintained after Covid.

HVE contributed that DCC's staff commute for 2019/20 was over 6 million miles. For Q1 2020/21 during Covid lockdown there was a c.66% reduction in business mileage claims.

Key objectives of the Remote and Flexible Working Project are:

- To make the council more efficient
- To reduce the councils' carbon footprint
- To increase democratic participation
- To improve work/life balance
- To increase the sustainability of rural communities
- To ensure that the Council's buildings are optimally configured to reflect the level of need

Alan Smith has set up a WG set up to discuss new ways of working.



# Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

## Group meeting; 10.11.20

Staff survey on new ways of working had 44% response rate. Feedback included staff had a better work/life balance due to reduced travel and personal breaks. Staff felt they could work from home for the majority of time with 64% saying they would only need to go into the office for 2 days or less per week.

3 main concerns – missing colleagues, feeling isolated and staff raised concerns over their working environment i.e. equipment etc.

The group are working on producing a statement for an agreed new way of working for the future.

### Questions and answer session with MJ, CB and LD

#### Public EV Charging

- GT - asked how quickly new car park infrastructure will be implemented and could we use school car parks etc. MJ stated within the new financial year. Only public car parks being considered as they are free and accessible overnight but other car parks could be considered depending on security.

#### Carbon from Fleet

- GT – slow progress if aim is to have all vehicles replaced by 2025 after end of life. CB explained there are limitations due to infrastructure and the ability to cope with the extra demand. Progress will remain slow unless these areas are addressed. Hydrogen will cover the majority of the solution for larger vehicles but availability of this in Wales is limited.
- BJ – added the new waste depot is set up for EV only currently but it has been noted the ability is there to add the hydrogen capability if required.
- HVE – Budget bid has gone into 2021/22 which would enable the installation of 5 additional EV charging pedestals (2 charging points on each) and transition 47 car and small vehicles to electric.

# Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

## Group meeting; 10.11.20

### Remote and flexible working

- BM – asked if Cllrs could see the survey results from staff and members. Supported staff working from home when required. Overall has felt virtual meetings work but mentioned some meetings do not work virtually including licensing (for example, the person has to leave while discussions take place). LD responded will feedback comments to the group members
- CJW – on the climate aspect of working from home the less mileage is positive but also energy use at home may have increased. Will this be offset by the reduced travel? HVE stated we are following Welsh Government greenhouse gas guidance which doesn't include emissions from staff homes, it only includes emissions generated by council land and property. However, because we are a rural county we expect the amount of travel reduced does offset the energy used at home for the greater carbon agenda.
- GK – stated she hoped people who did want to work from the office weren't penalised. Also, is there guidance on insurance and tax advantages as the home becomes a business. LD will feedback comments and stated that these considerations need to be addressed and included in any new policies and packages created.
- GT – raised the issue of poor internet connection as something the New Ways of Working working group will have to take on board.
- GK – raised recruiting staff virtually. LD stated we would have to look at making our ways of working clear to new potential recruits and also looking at induction for new staff in this more virtual setting.
- JG – stated could mean DCC can potentially attract from a wider pool of staff as can employ people who can work virtually. Assurance for members that wellbeing of staff is at the frontline.
- AR – raised the importance of seeing people face to face and the comradery this brings.

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 10.11.20

GT thanked MJ, CB and LD for their time and contribution.

### ACTIONS:

- **LD** – to send staff survey results in relation to new ways of working to the HVE to distribute to Climate Change and Ecological Emergency working group.
- **LD** – to feedback back to the New Ways of Working working group the concerns raised around some meetings not working virtually and the need to circulate insurance requirements and tax advantages for staff who are now working from home.

## 7. Forward work programme and next meetings

HVE took the group through the forward work programme.

Month	Proposed items for discussion
17 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Theme: Post consultation draft of Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflection on feedback received in the public consultation</li><li>• Shaping final Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan</li></ul>
14 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>Theme: Land Use</u>

## Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 10.11.20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting on Council's consideration of Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>• Land Use for the benefit of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement</li> <li>• Learning from Natural Resource Wales</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> February	<p><u>Theme: Behaviour change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and behaviour change amongst staff and councillors</li> <li>• Reflection on the Carbon Literacy training</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> March	<p><u>Theme: Closing the group and celebrating success</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting on the groups journey since the emergency declaration</li> <li>• Plans for governance and continued scrutiny of progress on this agenda moving forward.</li> <li>• Lessons learned and next steps for the Council</li> </ul>

### 8. AOB

GK – Will limestone quarries be included in Land Use calculations of the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and will there be a monitoring programme? HVE - only land that is owned and operated by DCC is included in the scope of the strategy.