

MINUTES

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

Date	1 February 2022
Time	14.00-16.00
Location	Microsoft Teams
Present	Cllr Bobby Feeley (BF), Cllr Brian Jones (BJ), Cllr Gwyneth Kensler (GK), Cllr Arwel Roberts (AR), Cllr Graham Timms (GT), Cllr Tony Thomas (TT)
Apologies	Cllr Martyn Holland, Cllr Barry Mellor, Cllr Joe Welch, Nicola Kneale (Heidi Barton-Price attending)
In attendance	Supporting officers: Heidi Barton-Price (HBP), Andrew Cutts (AC), Jane Hodgson (JH), Tom Johnstone (TJ), Alan Smith (AS), Howard Sutcliffe (HS), Joel Walley (JW), Liz Wilcox-Jones (LWJ), Tony Ward (TW) Councillor Observers: Cllr Alan James (AJ), Cllr Meirick Lloyd Davies (MLD), Cllr Emrys Wynne (EW)

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair GT welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

GT gave a warm welcome to Andrew Cutts as maternity cover for Helen Vaughan-Evans as Climate Change Programme Manager.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate.

The actions of the last meeting on 16 November 2021 were reviewed and an update provided by AC. See summary table below.

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ACTION	UPDATE
<p>HVE - to discuss and request some guidance from Paul Mead on how to support Councillors around planning decisions which appear to clash with the climate and ecological change agenda</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>AC to discuss further with Paul Mead and Angela Loftus to develop post-election training for Councillors</p>
<p>AS - to discuss with Geraint the opportunity to engage Governors on the Council's Climate and Ecological Change work/targets</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>HVE - to circulate Andrew's presentation with the minutes</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>AC - to get presentation translated in Welsh and send around copy once available</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>TW - to carry out a piece of work to analyse what the cost would be to carry out more environmentally friendly weed control across the county.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>JW - to organise a meeting with Andy and relevant Streetscene representatives to discuss and ascertain whether pesticides are required to be used in all circumstances they are currently.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>JW and officers met to discuss on 13 January. A further meeting scheduled for 2 March.</p>

Discussion from the actions from last meeting included:

- GT - following on from the Audit Wales report and items in the press, thanks to the two Lead Members and officers for their work on the programme
- BJ - offered words of caution - we cannot sit on our laurels and are only as good as the last audit. Where will the programme go in the next council?
- GK - with respect to items in the press of analysis of councils' climate action plans (<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>) we need to look across the whole UK, not only

Wales, for our standing. For example, DCC scored second highest in Wales, but want to be higher in UK list.

- GT – constitution change is important in the future of this work.

ACTIONS:

- AC – send Welsh version of his presentation given at previous meeting on ash die back to Awel Roberts

3. Matters arising

No matters arising were discussed.

4. Review Corporate Plan draft prior to it going to Council

AS provided an update to the group. There are a series of opportunities that it is thought the Council will tackle. Rather than a single climate change objective or priority, the plan has issues and themes. This plan is currently out to consultation. The climate change and ecological agenda, green issues and carbon are woven all the way through.

DCC has ambitious climate change plans. The challenge will be to deliver our plans and not lose momentum. The Programme has tried to integrate climate change into service area workplans. This information will be provided to the new Council (post elections). Officers will work with new Members to decide what should be in corporate plan, what activities will underpin it, and how to take it forward.

A discussion followed about the climate and ecological change agenda and how it appears in the plan – stand alone or integrated.

AR – wants to get high schools into the agenda and focus on the younger generation with respect to carbon reduction and better ways of living. On another topic – people work in silos eg still waiting on a nature reserve in Rhuddlan. The management team are waiting to rent out another field to enhance better carbon efficiency, another part of DCC are seeing problems with it; still awaiting a decision as the problem is that not everyone is on board.

The idea was raised of suggesting a resolution for a Cabinet role for climate change and ecological emergency in next Council – from this group and full council. Having a specific portfolio is good for coordination and cohesion. This was picked up in detail in agenda item 6: Approval of draft report to County Council on the Climate and Ecological Change Programme and Year 1 Delivery of the Strategy.

5. Plan for Member induction post May 2022

Liz Wilcox-Jones and Jane Hodgson (both Climate Change Project Managers) presented a draft outline plan for inducting Members of the new Council after the May 2022 elections (see Climate and Ecological Change Strategy – Update on Year 1 delivery (Appendix 6) policy paper in meeting papers). Feedback and suggestions were requested from the group and are listed below.

Crib sheet

- State of play within the council
 - include summary of the end of year report
 - include comparison between previous year data
 - Useful to know the situation the day the election is called eg how many buildings are eco-friendly, the DCC CO₂ emissions
 - List of projects eg including the EV project/taxis

- There was discussion of having a dedicated climate & ecological change MAG mentor.
 - someone for each MAG who is already plugged into main areas of climate change strategy, what's happening now and what's coming up.
 - feedback to members and keep the climate change agenda in focus at each MAG with a standing item on the agenda.
 - officers to feed high level information to MAG mentor.
 - NB the idea is not to have a member from each MAG on the climate change committee. People from the political working group could sit on MAG, or the MAG mentors could attend the political working group as observers. Keep the

Working Group set up as it is with representatives from political groups (not for geographical areas) so that conversations can be reported back to own political groups.

- Opportunity to raise the ecological change side of the agenda – how to improve the message?

Roadshows

- General support for officer attendance at roadshows
- Useful to have visible attendance of officers for members to meet and exchange contact details, put faces to names, get to know personalities.
- Can every officer have a card? Will induction etc be in person in same place?

Training course

- All would recommend the training, it was inspiring and informative
- Would be beneficial to use in schools

Videos

- Short little videos would support the training and influencing of new Members eg expansion of toolbox talks. Can use with eg MAGs to keep the focus. Make sure that schools are aware of videos so can use in lessons and source of info for students on what is going on with climate change and ecology in their area
- Workstream specific eg Transport, Waste, Buildings etc

Mentoring/buddying

- Overall view is no to mentoring/buddying.
- Could have a couple of members from parties to encourage others to ensure they consider the agenda.

Other engagement

- Schools – important that they work with us especially high schools. Make info available on what schools are doing and their plans. Could schools have new Cllr go along to school council to hear their views on climate change and ecology?

- Site visits – Howard suggested the following - Loggerheads, Moel Famau, Prestatyn Wetland, PD Way for North, Plas Newydd, Wenffrwd in south

6. Approval of draft report to County Council on the Climate and Ecological Change Programme and Year 1 Delivery of the Strategy

AC took the group through the paper. BJ and TT will introduce the report to the full Council on 22 February 2022.

- To note the progress made so far during year 1 of Climate and Ecological Change Strategy delivery.
- To agree in principal to continue the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Political Working Group into new Council (2022-2027).
- To provide feedback on draft plan/ approach for inducting Members of the new Council after the May 2022 elections on this agenda.

There was a discussion on what was meant by dedicated cabinet role and how different it would be to the existing two Lead Member roles. A single cabinet lead for climate and ecological change would be a Member focussed on climate and ecological change and would send a message within and outside DCC. With the integration of climate change and ecology across all DCC work, it needs a lead and dedicated point as well as giving weight to climate change and ecology and a high priority in the new Council.

BF queried whether there could there be a Friends of this Political Working Group.

BJ suggested the option of the group inviting speakers.

The group were happy with the draft report presented with the following amendments suggested before it is presented to full Council:

In main report text:

- single cabinet lead for Climate and Ecological Change – this has an associated recommendation

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- Suggestion for having a climate and ecological change mentor for each MAG – no recommendation for this, only in text

As a recommendation: suggest a resolution for a Cabinet role for climate change and ecological emergency in next Council – from this group and full council.

There was also a suggestion to add single cabinet lead for Climate and Ecological Change in Appendix 7 – risks.

ACTION:

- AC – update the paper's main and add the proposed recommendation for a single cabinet lead.

7. Forward Plan and any other business

AC took the group through possible agenda items at the next meeting of the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Working Group if it is continued following May elections.

Meeting Date	Possible Agenda Items
To be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy• Arrange site visits to project sites eg wildflower areas, PV school project, woodland creation• Reflection and learning from programme delivery during the previous Council• Consider the 22/23 programme and priorities

No meetings scheduled. Further meetings will depend on decisions made by the new Council.

The Chair (GT) extended thanks to:

- all officers in all various roles and their help in the last two years. Meetings have been very informative and given Councillors an opportunity to give feedback to group. GT was pleased with the results and hoped the new council will continue that way.
- on AS's retirement, goodbye and thank you for the work on this Working Group, the climate and ecological change agenda and development of Programme.
- TW's department and HS's area.
- the Lead Members who have had the responsibility.