

## **County Durham Environment Partnership Board Minutes**

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

### **Apologies**

Jamie Fletcher	-	Environment Agency
Jim Cokill	-	Durham Wildlife Trust
John Reed	-	Chair, Climate Change Group
Gordon Elliott	-	Partnerships, DCC

### **Attendees:**

Oliver Sherratt (Chair) (OS)	-	Direct Services, DCC
Liz Charles (LC)	-	Durham Community Action
Vicky Burrell (VB)	-	Strategic Waste, DCC
Lyndsey Waters (LW)	-	Communications, DCC
Andrea Petty	-	Partnerships, DCC
Steve Bhowmick (SB)	-	Chair, Coastal, Heritage and Landscapes Group
Glenn Robinson (GR)	-	Partnerships Team, DCC
Susan Langley (SL)	-	Durham County Council
Angela Brown (Minutes) (AB)	-	Secretariat, Partnerships, DCC

Item No.	Subject	Action By	
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  OS welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated round table introductions.		
2.	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>  All actions were agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.  If anyone would like any Environment information or data sets adding to the insight database John Mitchell will be happy to add this. GR agreed to draft list of Environment information available on Insight to see what data sets looking for and will circulate to the partnership and ask to consider and supply.	JM  GR	

	<p>The Vision – The emerging findings document which includes the draft vision is moving away from the altogether themes and instead has 7 or 8 high level ambitions, will be available to be circulated in the New Year.</p> <p>OS would like this on the agenda to be discussed at the next meeting in March. OS suggested that we need to see the document and make sure we comment.</p> <p>AP agreed to circulate the document once the consultation is live</p> <p>Single Use plastic – The report has been drafted and circulated. Various Government announcements/consultations have made it challenging to keep up to date. A national waste and resources strategy is anticipated by the end of December.</p> <p>The Environment Awards Anniversary – work is still underway assessing options for this.</p>	ALL AP	
3.	<p><b>Strategic Action Plan Template</b></p> <p>GR mentioned that they are proposing to link the actions to each of the 4 themes. OS felt that that on observation these are not specific/smart enough</p> <p>It was felt that Climate change is making a real impact and should be in there</p> <p>Single use plastic is in there but not specific enough needs something more tangible. More work is needed on this.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the actions and it was felt that it may be beneficial to have another column which gives a more detailed explanation. GR and SB will work on these.</p> <p>OS will send out an example of what we are looking for.</p>	GR & SB OS	
4.	<p><b>Working Group Identified Priorities/Performance Measures</b></p> <p>Postponed pending agreement to key actions exercise referred to above.</p>	SL	

5.	<p><b>Environment Partnership Membership and frequency proposal</b></p> <p>The Board are looking at wider representation. The CDP are doing a Governance Review which may affect the membership and frequency proposal.</p> <p>Suggestions for Board members were:          Durham University, Northumbrian Water Ltd,          Durham BID, The Woodland Trust, Cathedral,          Defra, AAP Rep as there will be a lot more community work through Climate Change.          It was also agreed to contact existing members of the Board to see if they are still interested in attending the meetings, such as Katharine Birdsall from Environment Agency and Lorna Smith from Public Health</p> <p>It was agreed to speak to Clare Thompson from Nature Partnership and invite her to next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed to keep meetings quarterly. It was also agreed that meetings would need to be aligned to what we have as a partnership</p> <p>AP will speak to Gordon Elliott regarding the AAP Rep</p>	GR GR AP	
6.	<p><b>Work Programme</b></p> <p>GR Circulated a draft programme.          If anyone has any suggestions/comments can you please forward them.</p>	ALL	
7.	<p><b>Environment Awards &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b></p> <p>The Environment Awards Ceremony took place on 8<sup>th</sup> November. A note was circulated with the papers for the meeting which included the list of winners for each category. SB mentioned they were very pleased with the outcomes and said the night was a great atmosphere. He reminded the Board that this happens because of the sponsorship to showcase activities.</p> <p>There is ambition about delivering a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as we want to look back over 3 decades of achievements. There is a lot of research and preparation to do for this. The starting point is looking at venue as we are at capacity at The Radisson so if we having more</p>		

	<p>people that won't work. There have been a number of suggestions such as The Cathedral or the Ramside but would need to look at resources around that and practicalities around putting something together</p> <p>SB mentioned that they are currently working on a timetable to 5<sup>th</sup> June for launch and judging will come in there after once entries have been submitted.</p>		
8.	<p><b>Single Use Plastics Report</b></p> <p>The single use plastic report was circulated with the meeting papers. OS reminded the board that the Environment partnership had been asked by scrutiny committee to provide a report which responds to a County Council Resolution on the options for bringing an end to the use of unnecessary Single use Plastic (SUP) in County Durham. The group are looking at the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable DCC to become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge@ by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all County Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the DCC supply chain</li> <li>• Encourage the County's businesses, organisations and residents to go 'plastic free' working with best practice partners across the County to explore the creation of a 'plastic free network' that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives</li> <li>• To incentivise traders on Council land to sell re-usable or non-plastic biodegradable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission, strengthening DCC's existing guidance for exhibitors and traders</li> </ul> <p>Looked first at some early quick wins which could be implemented:</p>		

	<p>Catering was an example of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• moved to recyclable, compostable, biodegradable coffee cups, food takeaway packaging and hot food service containers as standard</li> <li>• Introduced chargeable reusable plastic sip cups</li> <li>• Joined Northumbrian Water's Refill campaign in DCC civic sites and several public facing cafes</li> <li>• Use of bottles and reusable glasses when serving water for hospitality orders</li> </ul> <p>Partners were surprised at how fast these things have happened but was refreshing to see the changes.</p> <p>VB mentioned that there is a huge action plan of what we are trying to tackle over the next year. The key project being awareness and trying to educate people to the issues.</p> <p>Recommendations from the report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the considerable work undertaken in the last 6 months towards reducing use of Single Use Plastics by the County Council and its partners</li> <li>• To approve progression of a pledge to the County Councils cabinet to further reduce Single Use Plastics across Council Services</li> <li>• To extend an invitation to wider Council partners to also sign up to the same pledge, magnifying its impact</li> <li>• To note and approve the establishment of a 'Single Use Plastics network' to build on the success to date, and oversee implementation of plans that make further substantial reductions in single use plastics</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Updates from Group Chairs</b></p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage &amp; Landscape Group</u></p> <p>SB – The group met on Tuesday. There were presentations from two heritage action zones on regeneration and the heritage. Coordinators came in over respective projects. The Headline was 2025 200 worlds' first passenger railway. Linking in to promotions and celebrations for this. Funding is a big thing and Highways</p>	

	<p>England are a big funding pot around the University as they are wanting to push this to promote biodiversity.</p> <p>The oak and iron project was recognised on Country file programme based in Durham, so it was nice to see a HLF funded programme being promoted. Doing some training around charcoal. A frost fest weekend will also be held.</p> <p>The Wear Catchment partnership held an event on 13<sup>th</sup> November the funding headline was Environment Agency water environment to improve water in areas, SB will find out from Mark if this was successful.</p> <p><b><u>Environment in Your Communities</u></b></p> <p>LC – had PC Mike Gracey as guest speak at the last meeting who presented on the work he does that links in to the CAT team.</p> <p>The Community growing group met at the beginning of October they were looking why they are here and what they are achieving to see if they can put together some collaborative projects to scale up the work around community growing. LC is meeting with Michelle Cooper from CDCF as a first step.</p> <p>The school edible project – there were funds available for sugar tax so we now have 21 schools receiving funding so they have each contributed £500.</p> <p>It's your neighbourhood is due to be launched soon.</p> <p>Pumpkin and seeds had 48 schools and community groups involved.</p> <p>Waste and recycling week had over 300 people sign the pledge to stop using single use plastic. VB mentioned that they will make sure people are aware in recycling week to try and get more people to sign up to sign the plastic reduction pledge.</p>	SB	
10.	<p><b><u>Environment Partnership Communications</u></b></p> <p>In Durham County News the Christmas Recycling message is to remind people how they can recycle correctly to stop contamination. TV coverage for this. LW mentioned a video with school children tomorrow singing the 12 days of Christmas for the litter programme</p> <p>LW circulated the draft newsletter which was welcomed. If anyone has any comments let LW</p>	ALL	

	<p>know or if you would like anything including in the next edition</p> <p>Caring for your Environment award – VB has a link. A lady from Murton who is very active and very keen to try and feature as news piece or caring in Environment Award</p>	VB to link with LW	
11.	<p><b>AOB - recap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking to increase membership slightly</li> <li>• Will be sending out example for key actions and will be asking group to look at that</li> </ul>		
12.	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting:</b> 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, 10.00am, Town Hall, Durham</p>		