



Better for everyone

Meeting: Environment & Climate Change Partnership Executive Board

Date & Time: Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 2.00pm

Venue: Online Via Teams

Present:	Name	Organisation
	Jim Cokill (JC) Chair	Durham Wildlife Trust
	David Loudon (DL)	Durham University
	Cllr Mark Wilkes (Cllr MW)	Durham County Council
	Steve Bhowmick (SB)	Durham County Council
	Gordon Elliott (GE)	Durham County Council
	Chris Woodley-Stewart (CWS)	NP AONB
	Stuart Priestly (SP)	Durham County Council
Also in attendance:	Angela Brown (ABro) (Minutes)	Durham County Council
	Glenn Robinson (GR)	Durham County Council
	Simon Park (SPark)	Presenting Item 5
	Yvonne Flynn (YF)	Presenting Item 5
	Ellie Grimes (EG)	Presenting Climate Emergency update
	Denyse Holman (DH)	Presenting Item 3
Apologies:		
	Kate Burrows	Durham Community Action
	Alan Patrickson	Durham County Council
	Jon Gluyas	Durham university
	Maggie Bosanquet	Durham County Council
	Suzanne McDermott	County Durham Sport

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	Welcome and apologies	<p>JC welcomed everyone to ECCP meeting. He initiated round the screen introductions</p> <p>Apologies for the meeting were noted.</p>		
2.	Minutes of the meeting 9th Dec 2022 Matters arising	<p>The minutes from the meeting on the 9th of December 2022 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>Action 1 - Environment Awards – This on agenda for today’s meeting Action 2 – Physical Activities Strategy – SMcD to share report on research with Durham University. – GR reminded SMcD to share report Action 3 – Physical Activities Strategy – GR will speak to CWS and SP to link with Mick Shannon from Public Health – GR made introductions and SP mentioned he is now involved in workshops Action 4 – Town & Country Planning – SB/AP arrange a meeting with DL and Michael Kelleher – DL said work in progress. Last meeting with colleagues from planning department was cancelled, but had since met with Amy Harhoff and discussed how planning can support environmental sustainability Action 5 – COP 27 Events – If anyone would like link to Webinar Series let EG know – EG mentioned no one had contacted her in relation to this action</p>		
3.	Air Quality Strategy – Denyse Holman	<p>DH delivered a presentation to the Board on Delivering Durham City Air Quality Action Plan</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>It was asked what main sources of pollution are – DH said Vehicles. Conducted a source apportionment study to see which are the largest contributors. Light</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>goods vehicles are also contributors</p> <p>It was asked what practical measures were being considered? SPark said Uni have integrated travel plan, but with role out of hybrid working they have hit targets already, so need to revisit some of those targets. Park and Ride should have a joined-up approach, it does not stop near the University which is an issue. DH – there are measures on table to improve Park and Ride facilities, so they are aware of these issues and ways to address them will be in the new plan.</p> <p>It was asked if the Council undertake pollution monitoring around the city to see where the hotspots are? There is a strong correlation between traffic pollution and health and would like to try and see how this could be addressed. Technologies – could we try to move to electronic buses and would DCC consider introducing zones across the city to try and penalise those that drive high emitting cars. DH - there is a network of air quality monitoring if anyone is interested DH will send ABro link to circulate to group which details where all monitors are. Hotspot areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Elvet • Gilesgate • Nevilles Cross <p>Public Health Teams reps come to steering group to look at health impacts of pollution and trying to get fumes to under 40mg per metre cubed of nitrogen dioxide, which is world health organisation base standard. The first air quality action plan had actions in to try and address this but issue around funding. Had actions to retrofit busses around the city. In new air quality action plan, we are hoping to look more at what type of engines the busses that come through Durham use.</p> <p>Clear air zone for city has not been put on the table. The new draft actions we have in plan it will not have it included as an option, so maybe something we have to revisit.</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>EG felt this was very interesting and asked if there were possibly some recommendations from report that could be lowering speed limit in City Centre. Are we looking pollution for HVO vehicles, (diesel vehicles using Hydrogenated vegetable oil). DH said speed issue is measured on scoop system and there are various ways of controlling the traffic system. One action is to look at other ways apart from scoop that could have big impact on outskirts. Council looking at ways to clean up, but they are looking at using hydrogen rather than HVO</p> <p>JC asked if there was any natural environment added to plan to which DH said yes, one action is to review the green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>DH asked if it were worth her attending one of the Workstreams, JC mentioned that Jon Gluyas who is chair is not at the meeting today, but it would be worth building synergies with Climate Change Group</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABro will circulate presentation • DH to send ABro link on network air quality monitoring • DH to speak to JG and attend Workstream going forward 	<p>ABro DH DH</p>	
4.	ECCP Workstream Updates	<p>Place, Health, and Communities Workstream – Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>Last met in Feb. KB had sought nominations for Vice Chair, Andy Coulthard from Livin Housing was proposed for post.</p> <p>One of topics that the group have been charged to look at, through the Environment Climate Change Action Plan, is a better understanding of local heritage. We heard presentations from the councils’ conservation team regarding a pilot project with 22 local authorities in England promoting local heritage as a statutory protected asset. This refers to any heritage asset that is locally significant within the landscape, monuments or buildings that anyone has identified locally, which can be reviewed and protected through the planning framework. We had discussion around progress with the pilot and preparation of</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>local lists to identify what is significant for people in their communities. There had been several talks given to societies e.g., city of Durham Trust. There is panel being set up that is meeting for the first time to review list, look at cases, and suggest further sites to apply. That meeting will happen in April, with a soft launch; then a Supplementary Planning Document will be consolidated through formal consultation in early summer this year. Julie Anson who works with Towns and Villages, and sits on the PHC group, has been nominated to represent the group on the technical panel, so pleased with this..</p> <p>We heard from Zoey Lewin, Environment Planner who talked about the latest environment planning policy context that is going on with the National Environment Act goals. Zoey spoke about mechanism to progress this through Environment Act, Defra 25 Year Plan, levelling up and habitat regulations going forward.</p> <p>We also heard about nutrient neutrality - Defra are looking at impacts of developments in areas which suffer nitrogen issues through development.</p> <p>We looked at future topics, such as influencing the funding for the Towns and Villages programme, respecting things like local needs We also want to look at key project areas such as mine water heat at Horden, so we are looking to invite Someone from East Durham Trust to talk about Horden Together and how mine water heat can be used for sustainable projects.</p> <p>We are looking to have more housing engagement at future meetings</p> <p>Question/Comments It was asked in relation to River Pollution - one of issues is with Farmers Fields. Would be in group Terms of Ref to look at this? SB mentioned they are looking at combined issue of water pollution.</p> <p>Climate Emergency Workstream – Ellie Grimes Group met in Jan and next one will be April there has been a change in Board</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>members we have welcomed Sam Goss, Anna Riser, and Derek Fairbairn. Sam from NHS gave update on NHS green plan. We heard from Oasis on Climate friendly schools' website, we also had presentation from Nick Malin about Redhill's Pitman's Parliament, which members from the workstream the group are going to see this in April.</p> <p>The meeting was rounded off with a presentation on developing the Solar Supplementary Planning Document, Board members were asked to come along to the events planned for April to feed into to the Consultation.</p> <p>In terms of projects discussed - Solar Carports Feasibility Study which was completed in Nov last year. This did look at partner sites including the University, NHS Trust, property developers as well as Northumbrian Water. We would be happy to invite DH along to the next meeting in April.</p> <p>DCC, NWA, Durham University and NHS Trust have put in joint Funding bid to innovate UK Fast followers Project and had some joint events with the University looking at sharing knowledge and all things NetZero.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EG invited DH to attend next Climate Change Workstream at Redhill's <p>Ecological Emergency Workstream – Stuart Priestly The group have a single task to produce a Local Nature Strategy, still awaiting guidance from Defra of what this looks like in detail. We have been carrying out a mapping process – through meetings between ERIC (Env Record Information Centre) and County Ecologists, around Urban locality mapping and species mapping, making sure have linkages across boundaries. We have been looking at consultation - who might engage in the process and spoken to national farmers union about the process.</p>	EG	

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
5.	Durham University Biodiversity Strategy	<p>Simon Park and Yvonne Flynn gave a presentation on Durham Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Questions/Comments SB congratulated DL and his team for this work</p> <p>DL – Projects and infrastructure, the Vice Chancellor is 100% behind this and keen to see this rolled out. DH felt that this was remarkably interesting and said that Air Quality was a major factor to species dying out JC said it would be good to see how can link to NHS EG – Strategic Lead NHS for Climate Change is on the CE Board. Ellie will speak to DL regarding getting SP and YF to come along to give this presentation to their workstream.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will circulate presentation and video • EG to speak to DL in relation to Presenting at the Climate Emergency Workstream 	ABro EG/DL	
6.	Environment Awards 2022 and Plans for 2023 Awards	<p>Ceremony took place last Tuesday. Great to see them back in person after 3 years of being online. Amazing evening at Hardwick Hall Hotel</p> <p>SB will forward crib sheet via ABro for circulation</p> <p>Senior management said timely to look at new awards will go forward will work up short papers of what wanting to achieve and how do we value them Review criteria a bit working group would like reps from Board to feed into wider judging panel</p> <p>Cllr Wilkes thanked everyone that was involved.</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>However, a couple of comments for future event. The lighting was very bright, blinding for the close audience. Needs to be more of an emphasis on other partners, push it is a partnership approach.</p> <p>Also had great feedback about using sustainable food at the event.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB will forward Crib Sheet to ABro to circulate 	SB	
7.	<p>Devolution Impact on Environment Issues in Durham City – Jim Cokill</p>	<p>JC mentioned he had attended the County Durham Partnership Board meeting and there was presentation there on the Devolution Deal. He wasn't aware of how wide range the areas that would be covered by Devolution deal were and how they relate to our work, so was quite a lot on there that has Environmental angle to it, such as transport, habitat, rural issues etc.</p> <p>Do we want to look at this in more detail and see how we may interact with Devolution how do we integrate into work doing?</p> <p>Cllr Wilkes – Really need to push the Environmental Issues that we feel are the most important and that funding can be potentially directed too.Devolution will only work if it involves a significant investment into things which green the Northeast Economy and make us more productive in a green way, so fully behind this but how do we do this? We need direct contact with what will be the eight leaders and whatever subgroups and Committees that surround that.</p> <p>JC asked if someone could come and speak to us from DCC about this at the next meeting - GR will find best officer to come along.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GR to find best officer to come along to next meeting to speak about devolution 	GR	

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
8.	Any Other Business	<p>The Community Engagement Review</p> <p>Since June 2022 consultants ERS have been undertaking an impartial and unbiased review of the Council's community engagement function, primarily the work of the AAP's.</p> <p>The final report was received in January 2023 and proposed that the council consults with staff, elected members, AAP Board and Forum members, key partners, residents, and other interested parties on the changes that have been proposed in the independent review of the current approach. Consultation will take place between 13th march and 23rd April 2023</p> <p>A briefing paper and presentation were circulated to Board members</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>It was suggested that people need to be feeding into the consultation noting the things that work well already and the things that do not.</p> <p>JC will do response on behalf of the ECCP and will work with GR on this.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC will work with GR to do response for consultation on behalf of ECCP 	JC/GR	
	Date and time of Next Meeting	The next meeting of the ECCP Board will be Tuesday 20 th June 2023 at 2pm online via Teams		

Summary of Actions (as meeting date above)

No	Action	Lead	Timescale
1	Air Quality Strategy – ABro will circulate Presentation	ABro	
2	Air Quality Strategy – DH to send AB link on network air quality monitoring	DH	
3	Air Quality Strategy – DH to speak to JG and attend Workstream going forward	DH	
4	Workstream – EG invited DH to attend next Climate Change Workstream	EG	
5	Durham University Biodiversity Strategy – Will circulate presentation and video	ABro	
6	Durham University Biodiversity Strategy – EG to speak to DL in relation to presenting at the Climate Emergency Workstream	EG	
7	Environment Awards – SB will forward Crib Sheet to ABro to circulate	ABro	
8	Devolution – GR to find best officer to come along to next ECCP Board to speak about devolution	GR	
9	AOB – JC will work with GR to do response for The Community Engagement Review Consultation on behalf of ECCP	JC/GR	