

Meeting: Environment & Climate Change Partnership Executive Board

Date & Time: 12th September 2023 at 2.00pm

Venue: Online Via Teams



Better for everyone

Present:	Name	Organisation
	Jim Cokill (JC) Chair	Durham Wildlife Trust
	Steve Bhowmick (SB)	Durham County Council
	Sue Parkinson (SP)	Vice Chair of CDEP
	Amanda Healy (AH)	Durham County Council
	Maggie Bosanquet (MB)	Durham County Council
	Chris Woodley-Stewart (CWS)	NP AONB
	Simone Abram (SA)	Durham university
	David Loudon (DL)	Durham University
	Kate Burrows (KB)	Durham Community Action
	Angela Brown (ABro) (Minutes)	Durham County Council
	Glenn Robinson (GR)	Durham County Council
Apologies:		
	Alan Patrickson	Durham County Council
	Jon Gluyas	Durham university
	Stuart Priestly	Durham County Council
	Cllr Mark Wilkes	Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	Welcome and apologies.	<p>JC welcomed everyone to ECCP meeting today he mentioned that Jon Gluyas had stood down as chair from Climate and Emergency workstream so therefore wouldn't be attending this group in future. JC welcomed Simone Abram to the meeting she will now, as the new chair of the CE workstream be attending instead of Jon. He also welcomed Amanda Healy from Public Health.</p> <p>Round table introductions were initiated.</p> <p>AH mentioned that the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) had been refreshed and would like to share this at a future meeting if the Board felt it was relevant.</p> <p>Apologies for the meeting were noted.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH to bring refreshed JHWS to future meeting if relevant 	AH	
2.	Minutes of the meeting 20th June 2023	The minutes from the meeting on the 20th of June 2023 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.		
3.	ECCP Workstream Updates	<p>Place, Health, and Communities Workstream – Kate Burrows/Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>KB – discussing the future direction today is important as it links to what our group do and our need to demonstrate impact. At the last meeting we had feedback from community perspective on the Horden Mine water Project. Power East Durham are looking at opportunity to become energy distributor. There is a possibility of linking to County Durham Sport work and Horden Masterplan. The next discussion will be on how to take this forward, inform and influence and amplify tangible outcomes that this group is working towards. County Durham Sport discussed Sport England's plans for active community development work in</p>		

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		<p>the county.</p> <p>SB – Felt we have been working in silos for so long, so its good to learn from others. Karbon and Believe Housing are working together on unban green homes. We are realising our health needs as a county from a whole community perspective.</p> <p>Climate Emergency Workstream – Simone Abram</p> <p>SA – we need a plan to co-operate with each other and influence each other’s agendas. Last meeting met at Morrison Busty. It was interesting to see everyone getting excited about regional energy plans. We are aiming to work together to complement each other e.g., Lanchester Wines are a carbon neutral company and are happy to share learning with other organisations, to provide positive benefit for everyone. The solar car ports project is progressing well, and a performance specification is being developed by electrical and civils consultants. This work will be finished in December, and work to develop a business case and an invest to save application will be undertaken in early 2024 for the 16 sites in scope. Durham University developing a workshop event to look at Local Area Energy Plans and all partners to be invited. Beamish are new members on CE board.</p> <p>Ecological Emergency Workstream – Chris Woodley-Stewart</p> <p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Update – written update was sent with papers.</p> <p>CWS - the future of the Ecological Emergency Workstream is dictated by the LNRS for the County. There is a lot of work to do. Stuart Priestly is doing a lot of work engaging and working with surrounding local authorities, and working on what constitutes meaningful consultation with the public and how this can influence the LNRS.</p>		

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		<p>MB – we have an ecological emergency and a climate emergency; we need to see how we can dovetail the 2 agendas to work together. Something like a local plan to climate proof the LNRS and ecological proof the CERP3. To deliver joint benefits.</p> <p>KB – need to make sure people aren't excluded from the process and PHC workstream can support the wider consultation approach, whilst managing expectations of public.</p>		
4.	Refresh of the ECCP Board	<p>JC mentioned that he had written report with a proposal to make changes to the structure of the ECCP Board with the aim of strengthening the focus of the board to improve the delivery of the ECCPs vision for a better County Durham: sustainable communities, resilient to climate change, richer in nature.</p> <p>Inform, influence and amplify is a good summary of what we should be doing.</p> <p>JC asked the Board what they thought of the proposals?</p> <p>DL felt this was an opportunity to refresh the Terms of Reference for the group, he asked if we should be looking to take on a more strategic role rather than operational? Should this group try to influence policy e.g., pollution rules around building homes or conflict between nutrient neutrality policy and the economic agenda from the govt.?</p> <p>MB - we need to be generating action and need to make sure it leads to more added value.</p> <p>SB - there was a slight danger is we tend to talk to ourselves which shows the importance of a forum giving a wider voice and having influence.</p> <p>CWS felt in relation to policy influence (national policy before white paper) we should steer clear of this. We should be looking at where we can influence policy locally e.g., DCC and not national policy. And be aware that some partners may</p>		

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		<p>have opposing agendas e.g., on nutrient neutrality.</p> <p>AH – Increasing cross thematic work looking at what strategic priorities are for the Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWB). Get greater traction by working together. Impact Environment has on human health e.g., active travel.</p> <p>DL –could we ask that we are a Board that must be consulted on environment policy matters.</p> <p>SB – Council has a formal process through cabinet, we need a degree of independence for this board. How can we, as a board, be heard and what role could and should ECCP have in informing DCC policy.</p> <p>GR – This partnership isn't statutory so powers would be limited.</p> <p>DL – felt need to give group focus – we could act as a critical friend on policy matters, similar to how the Uni acts.</p> <p>MB – partners on CDP don't have one view. We should influence all views to consider environmental issues.</p> <p>DL – paper looks good. Agree that 50% of our meetings should be face to face.</p> <p>AH - we need to draw all data and intelligence and see if we have any gaps, this will help us shape the priorities.</p> <p>JC – issue we have on data is that it isn't available or robust in the environment world as in areas like health and wellbeing.</p> <p>KB – evidence base is important, but this is a large beast which is difficult to analyse. Agree with everything said but need to act early and there is an exercise to be done to see if we are making enough impact.</p>		

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		<p>JC – we should have enough knowledge around the table to identify where we can influence.</p> <p>DL – we can't do everything, but we need to be monitoring KPIs.</p> <p>JC said we do have some outputs on the plan but have never reported on them.</p> <p>CWS – what benefit would we have from gathering more information on KPI's we don't necessarily need, what value would we get? Will it make things better? As a board we don't deliver so we shouldn't invent KPIs we don't need. It feels like a make work project.</p> <p>JC – we can collect existing indicators from partners to help formulate our direction.</p> <p>KB – we need to think about resources – what we have and what we can realistically do with it. Time for all partners is an issue.</p> <p>SA – in relation to measurement – if spending time measuring you are not 'doing'. Annual Event is what we should be focusing on with support and fresh ideas.</p> <p>AH – Going back to basics – are there regular thing we can measure, not necessarily 1/4ly but perhaps yearly. What are the ambitions and is there anything that could be measured.</p> <p>MB – Climate Change easy - CERP3 is based around carbon measures we have Countywide, but the data is 2 years out of date. I appreciate that the Ecological Emergency workstream don't have easy access to measures.</p> <p>SB said we need to remember that we don't have a funding resource and rely on others to deliver projects for us.</p>		

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		<p>GR – If we are planning an event for March next year we need to start planning now. He said he needs more information on what the Board wants from the event, so we need a group to meet in October to begin planning the event for March. Ellie Grimes/Steve Bhowmick all volunteered.</p> <p>JC thanked everyone for their input and support for the refresh.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group to meet in October to provide plan for March annual event. 	EG/SB/GR	
5.	Any Other Business	<p>JC asked about nominating a Vice Chair for this group - please contact JC in next week or so if you would be interested in taking on this role.</p> <p>SB thanked everyone who supported the preparation work for the Environment Awards, this year's nominations launched on Monday, running until 5th October and the celebration ceremony will be early 2024.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are interested in becoming Vice Chair for group, please let JC know ASAP. • GR mentioned that the awards are now on CDP website and AB will send this link to Board members. 	ALL AB	
	Date and time of Next Meeting	The next meeting of the ECCP Board will be 11th December 2023 at 2pm online via Teams		

Summary of Actions (as meeting date above)

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1	Welcome and Apologies – AH to bring refreshed JHWS to future meeting if relevant	AH	
2	Refresh of ECCP Board – Group to meet in October to plan for the event in March	EG/SB/GR	
3	AOB – If you are interested in becoming Vice Chair for ECCP, please let JC know ASAP	ALL	
4	AOB – GR mentioned that the awards are now on CDP Website and AB will send this link to Board members	AB	