

Meeting: Environment & Climate Change Partnership Executive Board

Date & Time: 10th June 2024 at 2.00pm

Venue: Online Via Teams



Better for everyone

Present:	Name	Organisation
	Jim Cokill (JC) Chair	Durham Wildlife Trust
	Alan Patrickson (AP)	Durham County Council
	Amanda Healy (AH)	Durham County Council
	Sue Parkinson (SP)	Durham County Council
	Kate Burrows (KB)	Durham Community Action
	Steve Bhowmick (SB)	Durham County Council
	Maggie Bosanquet (MB)	Durham County Council
	Chris Woodley Stewart (CWS)	NP AONB
	Stephen McDonald (SMcD)	Durham County Council
	Phil Marsh (PM)	Durham University
	Glenn Robinson (GR)	Durham County Council
	Angela Brown (ABro) (Minutes)	Durham County Council
Apologies:		
	Simone Abram	Durham university
	Cllr Mark Wilkes	Durham County Council
	Stuart Priestly	Durham County Council
	Ellie Grimes	Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>JC welcomed everyone to today's meeting and introduced Phil Marsh who has taken over from David Loudon at Durham University</p> <p>The Board members introduced themselves to Phil.</p> <p>Apologies for the meeting were noted.</p>		
2.	Review and Actions from Emergency Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="280 646 571 678">• Communication <li data-bbox="280 1236 645 1316">• Northeast Combined Authority (NECA) 	<p>JC mentioned that he did not receive a lot of comments back in relation to actions from the Emergency Summit Workshop. Board confirmed they were all happy with the write up.</p> <p>CWS said his concern was that we have limited resources, and we can't put all environment concerns out in one voice, but we do need to make sure we have consistent messages. JC and AP agreed with this. All felt that getting the key shared messages out was very important, avoiding duplication and organising where interests overlap.</p> <p>KB asked if DCC had a comms lead linked to ECCP – GR replied that it is Lyndsey Waters for wider comms. JC felt we need to share ways of getting the right messages out. CWS felt this was coming together with the meeting of Comms leads that is planned for Friday. SMcD said they have a specific plan of what they are doing over next 6 months, and Adrianna will bring this to the comms meeting. GR mentioned the invite for the meeting had gone to all comms leads but JC invited Board members to attend if they wished to do so.</p> <p>JC was initially worried when he went to first Environmental, Rural and Coastal meeting, but in the end, they covered the issues that need to be addressed. Difficult to say at this point what the actions will be.</p> <p>SMcD – engaging significantly with them and other Local Authorities. Work extensively on net zero and sharing best</p>		

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		<p>practice. Working very well, it is good to have central resource. Applied for funding but were not successful. There is a big focus on transport. Net Zero not core theme of priorities but it's a cross-cutting theme.</p> <p>CWS would hope to have better collaboration, better policy, and better resourcing. Thinks we may get the first two but struggle with resourcing. It is worth keeping eye on other portfolios as there are a lot of cross overs especially around the culture portfolio (no budget associated with the culture budget portfolio unlike the others).</p> <p>KB agreed with JC and CWS and thought this was a collaborative process, agree area of difficulty will be around resourcing.</p> <p>From a VCSE perspective she was approached to be seconder to sit at Cabinet to represent the VCSE. There is a business member on Mayors Cabinet so have lobbied for VCS member, which was agreed - Martin Brooke will be rep on Cabinet for Voluntary Sector. Once Martin is in post will make sure Voluntary Sector Voice is not lost within the structures. Robin Fry is the connector Vol rep in portfolios, so it is important that are well informed to spot opportunities for alignment. She feels positive, but we will have to be clever to make sure money is aligned appropriately focusing on benefits of that investment for Co Durham.</p> <p>MB said this is a new organisation so do not know how it is going to work, but their team do have a really good relationship with NetZero people. Positive note is that she sits on Board for Northeast and Yorkshire hub for NetZero and NELEP has more money coming than all other LEPS in region.</p> <p>Negative is that whilst we have been successful in Durham bid for electric vehicles, future bids will now come through the Combined Authority, and they didn't listen to the advice given to them, so we need to check we are not losing powers.</p> <p>AH – it's a new organisation and the 7 directors of Public Health are looking at how we can maximise reducing inequalities across the portfolios. One of the areas they are looking at is Transport.</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance/Investment 	<p>AP – Good to see how many references there are related to green issues. Feel like climate is part of everything, so something to be optimistic about. We now have mayor in place, and it will be interesting to see what sort of Mayor she will be and how she will put her own vision on what we do over the next 12 months. JC asked if it was worth getting someone from NECA to speak to this group? Maybe Ross Lowrie?</p> <p>SB – Aware talking people in other authorities pulling together bids for projects, so it is worth looking to see where we can develop outline areas of interest. We are in a strong position so that could be in an advantageous to us. JC asked if it was worth taking to workstreams to escalate?</p> <p>JC – 3 areas at Summit (maybe later date for discussion at future meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement to build social value. • Greening businesses - in the way businesses operate and the markets that they serve. • Green finance – rely on partners to share best practice examples. <p>CWS – said there is awful lot of talking about Green Finance especially from government. They think it’s easier than it is, maybe it would be useful for Paul Leadbetter from his team to present to the group on challenges for green finance. Would like to hear other people’s experience.</p> <p>SMcD – presentation UKM Structure Bank happy to share with group. Have £22bn financing capacity. 5 priority sectors - clean energy, transport, waste, digital and water. Also help in development of projects looking at returns on investment. Have further meetings with finance colleagues planned.</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over/Consumption/Waste • Local action 	<p>JC felt that we need to get thinking together on this and will discuss at future meeting.</p> <p>AP felt as things have moved on with national policy it would be good to get someone from waste to attend a future meeting to discuss.</p> <p>JC said we need to look at how we can support smaller organisations, share information better and support funding. We will bring this to future meeting.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NECA - JC to get someone from NECA to attend this group maybe Ross Lowie • Finance/Investment - SMcD will send presentation to AB to share. • Overconsumption/Waste - AP to suggest someone from Waste to come along to future meeting to discuss. • Local action – JC will put on future agenda for discussion 	<p>JC</p> <p>SMcD</p> <p>AP</p> <p>JC</p>	
3.	ECCP Workstream Updates	<p>Place, Health, and Communities Workstream – Kate Burrows/Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>KB – Reached a positive point with the group. Filled in plan on page with clear focus on outputs and policy drivers (Transport, Economy, Health and Culture). Tracking impact through CERP3 and links to other priority areas e.g., HWB Strategy.</p> <p>SB – we have outline synergies as a Board. Kate has done an excellent job building different sectors. Working with Public Health on extensive ideas.</p>		

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		<p>Climate Emergency Workstream – Maggie Bosanquet</p> <p>MB – met recently talked about summit. Also discussed 3 areas of work we are looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating deep geothermal solutions to create heat - early days. • Heat networks (Presentation from Ellie) - doing work across County to identify where heat networks would work. ongoing discussions. • Discussion around identifying a decarbonisation partner. <p>If we continue business as usual, we will not hit net zero targets so need big step change to get there. We decided it was not a useful use of time to carryout a local area energy plan. We think what we need is a partner to provide expertise that can work alongside us to help scale up the action. The University, NHS and Council discussed carrying out a soft procurement exercise to see what the market would offer and what a programme would look like, and, in relation to match funding, how could we make this work? What social value would be included in this? Looking for something that delivers for County Durham. Partners are supportive but may need support from CDP Board.</p> <p>Ecological Emergency Workstream – Chris Woodley Stewart</p> <p>Durham LNRS Species Workshop – 18th May – 20 attendees across a range of disciplines and sectors e.g., quarry operators were represented as well as angling clubs and ecological consultants.</p> <p>Farmer and Land Manager Workshops have been held. Approx. 24 attendees at Workshops held in Lanchester, Stanhope, Seaham,</p>		

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		<p>and Bishop Auckland.</p> <p>Thematic Sub-Groups established, and TOR agreed. The first meetings are being held, to date Coastal / Rivers and Running Waters / Woodland, Scrub, Hedgerows and Trees have met. Other meetings in the pipeline or diarised for later in the month.</p> <p>Social Media promotion planned around the results of the consultation (planned for mid-June), showing the high-level results of the consultation. Information will be placed on the LNRS Website as well as being email to those the 'Consultees List'.</p> <p>The Habitats Map (baseline map) will be going live on the website this week.</p> <p>Moving forward over the next month or so:</p> <p>Aiming to have the priorities ("the end results that the strategy is seeking to achieve") for habitats and species in draft form by the end of June.</p> <p>Consultation on the priorities via social media / Website / Consultees List over July.</p> <p>Continue to develop the priorities and work up the associated measures ("specific practical actions to achieve priorities")</p>		
4.	CERP3 Governance and Actions – Stephen McDonald	<p>SMcD presented on the Governance and Actions for CERP3</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>CWS – Regarding the Ecological Emergency Group proving scrutiny function for some of the actions - are you still happy for us to do this? SMcD replied that he was, and the 'Natural Environment'</p>		

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		<p>element would sit with his group.</p> <p>SP – SMcD and SP had a meeting to discuss the actions and said the CDEP cannot deliver all of those actions on its own. The partnership is there to share information and cannot deliver any of the actions.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMcD asked Board members to look through the CERP actions and let him know if anything needs to be amended ASAP 	All	
5.	Any Other Business	JC will feed back on the communications meeting that is to be held later this week.		
	Date and time of Next Meeting	10am-12pm - 17th September 2024 at Durham Wildlife Trust, Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, Houghton-Le-Spring DH4 6PU		

Summary of Actions (as meeting date above)

No	Action	Lead	Timescale
1	Actions from Emergency Summit – NEMCA - JC to get someone from NECA to attend this group maybe Ross Lowie	JC	
2	Actions from Emergency Summit – Finance/Investment - SMcD will send presentation to AB to share	SMcD	
3	Actions from Emergency Summit – Overconsumption/Waste - AP to suggest someone from Waste to come along to future meeting to discuss	AP	
4	Actions from Emergency Summit – Local Action - JC will put on future agenda for discussion	JC	
5	CERP 3 - SMcD asked Board members to look through the CERP actions and let him know if anything needs to be amended ASAP	ALL	