

County Durham Environment Partnership Board Minutes

**Wednesday, 19th September 2018
The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Jamie Fletcher	-	Environment Agency
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Attendees:

Oliver Sherratt (Chair) (OS)	-	Direct Services, DCC
Liz Charles (LC)	-	Durham Community Action
John Reed (JR)	-	Chair, Climate Change Group
Vicky Burrell	-	Strategic Waste, Durham County Council
Gordon Elliott	-	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Lyndsey Waters (LW)	-	Communications, DCC
Tarryn Lloyd Payne (TLP)	-	Secretariat, Partnerships Team, DCC
Steve Bhowmick (SB)	-	Chair, Coastal, Heritage and Landscapes Group
Jim Cokill	-	Durham Wildlife Trust
Glenn Robinson	-	Partnerships Team, DCC
John Mitchell	-	Durham County Council
Michael Fleming	-	Durham County Council
Gemma Wilkinson	-	Durham County Council
Angela Brown (Minutes) (AB)	-	Secretariat, Partnerships, DCC

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	Welcome and Introductions OS welcomed everyone to the meeting today and initiated round table introductions.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising LC asked if an amendment could be made to the last minutes Page 5 should read as Recovery College and not Our Community There was concern that the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy' is part of the evidence that informs the plan yet not all members of the Board had even seen this document All other actions were agreed as a true and accurate record	AB to amend GR to chase

3.	<p>County Durham Environment Partnership Priorities</p> <p>TLP presented on the Partnership Priorities and reminded the Board that we had produced a plan on a page and had lots of partner engagement and involvement. Comments were taken on board and necessary amendments were made. OS had taken the document to the last County Durham Partnership Forum and had a lot of engagement.</p> <p>SB mentioned that there is a massive wealth and activities for the community to be involved. We want something that can be more interactive with community engagement. We need a hub of environment and resources for the County going forward. In relation to the action plan could we assign actions to the working groups?</p> <p>Next steps OS thanked TLP and mentioned he had a lot of feedback so overall have very strong endorsement</p> <p>What is still to do:</p> <p>Consider consultation responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider influence on thematic really important? • Stronger inclusion of food waste? • Sustainable Transport? • Intelligence and bringing information together for access by residents and visitors? <p>OS asked the Board if they were happy with plan on a page subject to change? The Board endorsed this.</p> <p>OS suggested writing a note to the group chairs within the timeframe to ask the groups to suggest 3 or 4 actions that would potentially make a difference and bring something in draft to discuss at the next meeting, then maybe in the New Year possibly taking to AAP for community projects to promote good work through the partnership</p> <p>OS mentioned that the next meeting will discuss the membership. It would be useful to have a discussion around structure and membership to see if we have key people missing and try to get them involved.</p>	
4.	<p>Durham Insight and Environment Performance</p> <p>Michael Fleming did a joint presentation with John Mitchell on the Durham Insight which is a shared intelligence, research and knowledge base for Co Durham, informing strategic planning across Durham County Council and its partners and by thematic partnerships. The aim is to provide users with an easy way to access and share information, intelligence, research and knowledge for deeper insights about their local area or communities.</p>	

	<p>The main aim of this site is informing and supporting our Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and strategies managed by the authority and its partners.</p> <p>MF reminded the Board that Durham insights is for partners therefore would be useful to know what partners would like to see on there.</p> <p>The link is now live so MF will forward link to be circulated to the Board</p> <p>JM mentioned that his team had spent a lot of time on the development work to populate the site. They used 4000 indicators from lots of sources, data on this site is most up to date information available.</p> <p>There is not a lot of information on the site for Environment and there has always been a problem getting data below County level for this therefore that's where help from partners is needed to populate this information.</p> <p>If Board members could let AB know what information they have that could be used to populate insight then maybe MF could come back to the group in the New Year to update on this.</p> <p>Gemma Wilkinson discussed performance with the Board and asked what they want in relation to performance framework for the plan?</p> <p>She will come back to the Board after discussions have been had with each group to get final actions/measures.</p> <p>OS summarised by saying that we have draft measurers already in the plan with a focus around partnership. At same time as asking for key actions look for comments around proposed actions. When we meet in December we need to refine these. It was agreed to have no presentations at the December meeting so it can be used as a workshop.</p> <p>OS asked GW if information will be available on how groups are performing as it would be good to measure success. GW said she would be happy to speak to chairs individually if they require this to discuss what information they would like to see.</p> <p>GW to attend meeting in December</p>	MF
		ALL

	<p>5. Vision for the County Durham Partnership</p> <p>GE discussed the new vision for the County Durham Partnership.</p> <p>The SCS needed a refresh of what we are trying to achieve as the 'Altogether' have served us well but the landscape has moved on. The time is right to develop a new Vision for the County Durham Partnership, Cllr Henig and Lorraine will present this on Friday at the County Durham Partnership Board meeting what are our 3 or 4 key issues coming out. We need to be enhancing what we have.</p> <p>As a Partnership we have an event planned for 10th October which you all should have had an invite for, to speak on an asset based approach. Please come along and be inspired and learn all about the new vision.</p>	ALL
6. Single Use Plastic	<p>OS reminded the Board that as County Durham Partnership we have been tasked to look at reducing single use plastic consumption. As part of this a partnership cross cutting group has been established. Currently doing an audit of the County Council using single use plastics.</p> <p>There have been a number of surveys carried out with suppliers of plastic bags and looking at them being reincorporated into the roads, and are working with transport to develop on the scale of that with a possibility of signing a pledge which will give the direction of travel. Hoping to bring back the report and share it with the partnership.</p> <p>Durham City bid green scheme and Gala Theatre are signed up to no plastic. The canteen are now using reusable cups.</p> <p>Will share with partners as soon as it is available in advance of 12th November. Happy to have extra meeting if needed.</p> <p>The task group are currently looking for case studies. A lot of wider corporate organisations are waiting from information from Defra. Smaller ones have adopted making smaller changes where they can.</p> <p>OS asked partners to send any examples of case studies</p> <p>It was mentioned that when you buy a meal deal in the canteen you still get plastic bottle with this. OS will feed back to group regarding this.</p>	ALL OS
7. Environment Awards	<p>SB gave an update on the Environment Awards. The judging starts this week. The Ceremony evening is the 8th November. The report that was circulated to the Board in</p>	

	<p>advance of the meeting is about next year as it is big 30 year. It is a flagship for the partnership. There are issues for you to think about and how it can be promoted, judging, sponsorship then the ceremony itself in November 2019. If we want key note speaker and special awards the cost will be more, we would need to fund an extra £6000 to stage all we want.</p> <p>We could have a few less categories and maybe one for a special award.</p> <p>If all partners could look at report and feedback</p>	ALL	
8.	<p>Updates from Group Chairs</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u></p> <p>SB – The last meeting saw a discussion around VCD plan was interesting to hear of new opportunities they are pushing forward, such as Dark skies Festival. There are gaps that need to be filled. But very positive message. They are looking at something like the York Pass.</p> <p>DCC Countryside – both Hardwick and Wharton Park have both been given green flag accreditation by the charity Keep Britain Tidy in recognition of the excellent standards of maintenance, management and good practice which keep them looking great.</p> <p>Groundwork have talked a lot about the new visitor centre and the VIP launch for this will be next month.</p> <p>Two long serving countryside volunteers Valerie Stokell and Linda Schofield received the Caring For your Environment Award</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u></p> <p>LC – The group met in September and had Ken Bradshaw give a talk around Durham Woodland Revival Project and to give an overview of what they are doing. In relation to Community Growing an article on leaf composting will be promoted throughout Autumn. Food Durham has a funding to run Durham Cities Campaign growing vegetables.</p> <p>Age UK coming together to produce DVD on growing using older people in the County to help older people to be more involved in growing vegetables.</p> <p>VB – It is recycling week next week. Staff are out and about working with Northumbrian Water to encourage businesses to sign up to the refill project. Linking in communications and DCC have been supportive with refill. Various school campaigns are working with AAP's. The Environment Agency are doing inspection sites for waste a lot of businesses are compliant.</p>		

	<p><u>Climate Change & Air Quality Group</u> JR – There are lots of different initiatives happening. Have been working on bid in for Louisa Centre in Stanley for ground source heat pumps. Hopefully this will be submitted ASAP. Cliff Duff is involved in lots of work around Energy Efficiency and Social Housing. Working with schools in relation to reduction campaign been developed.</p> <p>Air Quality – Denise Holman is looking at proposals for air quality.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> Have set up procurement which council are to adopt</p>		
9.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications LW circulated the draft Altogether Greener Newsletter. If anyone has any more information to be added. Can you do so ASAP as hope to circulate on Friday?</p>	ALL	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TLP mentioned that GR will be looking after the Environment Partnership going forward. OS thanked Tarryn for her work and welcomed Glenn to the Board. • LC mentioned it had been brought to her attention that there was a planning application for a pig farm in Burnopfield which has 500 objections, just to make people aware of this. • OS – Single use plastic there is potential for special meeting. If not the next meeting will be as scheduled in December. 		
11.	<p>Date and time of next meeting: 5th December, 2018, 10.00am, Town Hall, Durham</p>		